

ICRC condemns Israeli practices

GENEVA (R) — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Wednesday condemned Israel for expelling eight Palestinians to Lebanon and for the army's destruction of homes in the occupied territories. In a strongly worded statement read to Reuters, an ICRC spokesman said the humanitarian agency planned to express its concern to the "highest levels" of the Israeli government. "Our position on the ... expulsions is one of condemnation," the spokesman said. The expulsions violated article 49 of the fourth Geneva convention forbidding forced transfers of individuals or groups, the spokesman said. "We confirm the eight expelled Palestinians are at Karza near the (ICRC) delegation which is providing them with humanitarian assistance in the form of medicines, housing and food," he added. The ICRC said other serious violations of the fourth convention included an Israeli "retaliatory destruction of houses," and criticised "collective punishment" of Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza. "ICRC delegates, over the last 72 hours, have noted the continued use of weapons of war, which have caused a certain number of deaths in the occupied territories," it added.

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King receives cables from Assad, Qadhafi

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received a cable from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad voicing thanks and appreciation for the King for his congratulations to him and to the Syrian people on the occasion of the 42nd anniversary of Syria's Independence Day. Assad wished the King continuing good health and happiness and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity. The King also received a cable of congratulations from Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi congratulating him on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan. The Libyan leader wished the King continuing good health and happiness and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity.

Shultz: Hijackers should be punished

HELSINKI (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said Wednesday that letting the hijackers of a Kuwait Airways Jumbo jet go free would violate international standards and not be "a proper thing to do." "They are not only hijackers but murderers," Shultz said at a news conference. He said his reports from Algeria were fragmentary and he did not want to question the Algerian government, which reportedly guaranteed the gunmen safe passage in exchange for releasing 31 hostages they had held for 16 days. Two other passengers were killed during the ordeal.

Sudan says 500 rebels killed

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese troops, fighting off an ambush, killed 500 rebels in a six-hour battle near the southern town of Nasir, the government said Wednesday. A military communiqué said 43 government troops were killed and several wounded in Sunday's fighting. Government forces entered Nasir, in Upper Nile region 800 kilometres southeast of Khartoum, Monday. Rebel soldiers of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) had fled the area, it said. Khartoum's independent Al Ayam daily reported government casualties of 55 dead and 80 injured.

Soviet panel recommends INF approval

MOSCOW (R) — A special Soviet parliamentary commission has recommended Kremlin ratification of the superpower pact banning medium-range nuclear missiles. TASS news agency reported Wednesday. The official news agency said the commission had concluded that the pact would "enhance rather than reduce the security" of the Soviet Union, the United States and the rest of the world. It said the panel recommended that the foreign relations commissions of the two Soviet houses of parliament propose the treaty's ratification when they report to the Praesidium of the Supreme Soviet, the highest state body.

U.N. operations resume in N. Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA (R) — United Nations staff have returned to famine relief work in the northern Ethiopian provinces of Eritrea and Tigray after being ordered out earlier this month, a U.N. official said Wednesday. Martti Ahtisaari, special envoy of U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, said before leaving for Geneva after a four-day visit: "Following my discussions with the government of Ethiopia, we are resuming our operations in Tigray and Eritrea." Relief workers were ordered out of the two provinces when the Ethiopian government said its own relief commission would take over the famine relief programme there. The government's order followed an offensive by rebels who captured several towns from government forces.

Iraq offers truce in 'war of cities'; Tehran announces 'mobilisation'

Iranian missile lands in Kuwait

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iran fired a missile Wednesday into southern Kuwait and launched what it described as an all-out mobilisation to confront America and Iraq.

Iraq, bolstered by the lightning recapture of a key peninsula on the southern Gulf waterfront, offered Iran a truce Wednesday in their missile "war of the cities."

There was no immediate response from Tehran, still counting the cost of its loss of the Fao peninsula and the drubbing its warships took in a battle with the U.S. navy in the southern Gulf Monday.

Iraq offered a conditional halt to the missile attacks, which have killed hundreds of civilians on both sides since late February. It said it would observe the ceasefire from midnight (2000 GMT). But it repeated a series of conditions, including the right to strike the last blow, which have failed in the past to end the carnage.

The offer was made the day Kuwait reported an Iranian mis-

sile attack on a U.S.-operated oilfield in its territory. It followed the Iraq's recapture of Fao north-east of the emirate in the biggest Iraqi offensive since the early days of the war, now well into its eighth year.

As Iraq's troops on the peninsula sprayed portraits of Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini with machinegun fire (see page 5), military analysts in the Gulf and London said Tehran had suffered major setbacks on the ground and at sea.

The Soviet-made Scud missile fired at Kuwait landed harmlessly in the desert.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, speaking after the attack but without mentioning it, said Kuwait had let Iraqi helicopters attacking Fao use its Bubiyan Island as a base.

Kuwait's Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Suleiman Majid

Al Shaheen protested to the Iranian charge d'affaires, saying the missile attack gave a major new boost to tension in the region.

A senior official of Getty oil company of the United States said the missile exploded harmlessly in the desert near the Al Wafra oilfield, 80 kilometres southwest of Kuwait city.

Al Wafra lies in a so-called "neutral zone" whose oil production is shared equally by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and sold on behalf of Iraq.

A Defence Ministry statement carried by the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said Kuwait reserved the right to respond.

Kuwait has previously been a target of Iranian wrath following clashes between the U.S. and Iran in the Gulf.

In the most recent incident, U.S. forces destroyed two Iranian oil platforms in the southern Gulf Monday in response to what Washington said was Iran's mining of Gulf sealanes and the holding of a U.S. frigate.

The U.S. navy sank an Iranian

(Continued on page 5)

16-day hijack drama ends

ALGIERS (Agencies) — The Kuwait hijack ended in its 16th day at dawn Wednesday with all 31 remaining captives freed unharmed after Algerian authorities spirited away the gunmen who seized the Jumbo jet.

The eight gunmen failed in their bid to win the release of 17 Arab militants from prison in Kuwait despite shooting dead two passengers in Cyprus and beating other captives.

Western diplomats said the hijackers apparently slipped out of a rear door of the Kuwait Airways Boeing 747. They vanished into the first flush of dawn at Algiers airport, away from the eyes of watching journalists.

"They will disappear just as rain disappears into the soil," one diplomat said.

Two women from Kuwait's ruling Al Sabah family were the first captives off the aircraft at 6 a.m. (0500 GMT). Wrapped in blankets, they sped away from the airport in two cars.

The 22 remaining male passengers and seven crew shuffled down the steps after them, some smiling and waving. They were first taken to the VIP lounge by bus and then to hospital.

The plane's Iraqi captain, Sub-

hi Naim Youssef, 53, told jostling reporters: "I worried about every part of it, but I am relieved now."

The plane was seized at 0230 GMT April 5 over the Arabian Sea on a flight to Kuwait from Bangkok. It was diverted first to Iran and Cyprus before landing in Algeria early April 13.

Few of the hostages caught even a glimpse of the hijackers' faces because they showed themselves only with pillow cases over their heads with holes cut out for the eyes.

The worst moment was when they put a gun to the head of one of the passengers," said the plane's purser, Abdul Monem Mahmoud, an Egyptian. "Their eyes were sharp and expressionless, like those of a shark."

But Khaled Mubarak, a 33-year-old Kuwait meteorologist said he once caught a glimpse of the faces of five of the hijackers through a crack in a toilet door. "They were all very young," he said.

Mubarak said from this brief view and from the hijackers' voices he might be able to recognise some of them, he added. "All except their leader, I never saw his face and he never spoke to us."

Shultz to press for Iran arms ban in Moscow

HELSINKI (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz says he will tell Soviet leaders in Moscow Thursday and Friday that the Reagan administration is determined to secure a U.N. Security Council arms embargo against Iran.

Shultz said he thought the U.S. strike on Iranian targets in the Gulf Monday would not have much effect on the course of the Iran-Iraq war, but an arms embargo would have a major impact on Iranian policies.

"The fact that probably some arms would slip through and all of that doesn't mean that it wouldn't have a major impact. It would reduce their ability to get arms. It would reduce their ability to get parts and things they need."

"It would cause things to be more expensive. It would definitely have a big impact, I think," Shultz told reporters Tuesday on his plane from Washington to Helsinki, where he was spending one day before moving on to Moscow.

Shultz said he believed the Soviet Union was keen to see an end to the Gulf war, but he declined to predict how the Kremlin leadership would react

to his appeal for quick Security Council action on an arms embargo resolution.

The Soviet Union has supplied large quantities of weapons to Iraq, but it is officially neutral in the Gulf war and it has sought to improve relations with its neighbour Iran after a difficult period in the early 1980s.

The Soviet media have also criticised Monday's U.S. actions against Iranian vessels and oil platforms in the Gulf as aggressive, but have avoided the kind of strident denunciation which followed U.S. strikes against Libya in 1986.

In Washington, a U.S. State Department official, said Tuesday that Shultz hoped to make another peace mission to the Middle East soon but denied an Israeli report the trip would take place next month.

As he ended his last visit to the region 12 days ago, Shultz made clear his desire to return soon to the Middle East to try and keep his foundering peace initiative alive.

"Certainly he wants to go at some point but no decision has been made on when to go," said the State Department official, who asked not to be identified.



Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah



HM King Hussein

King renews pledge of total support for Kuwait

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday contacted over the phone the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, and renewed Jordan's pledge of total support for Kuwait and its security, stability, independence and sovereignty, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The King's pledge followed an Iranian missile attack on Kuwait earlier in the day.

Petra said the King also congratulated Sheikh Jaber for the end of early Wednesday to the 16-day hijack of a Kuwaiti airliner.

Sheikh Jaber thanked the King and expressed appreciation for Jordan's firm and brotherly pan-Arab stands, Petra said.

1 shot dead, 11 wounded in Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Palestinian died and at least 11 were injured during a violent protest Wednesday on the eve of the 40th anniversary of the creation of Israel, an Israeli army spokesman said.

Troops fired tear-gas, rubber bullets and gunshot to disperse protesters at Nuseirat refugee camp in the occupied Gaza Strip. Eyewitnesses quoted by Reuters said Palestinians hurled stones at Israeli patrols.

Israel sealed off the 1.5 million Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to thwart any protest during the Damascus funeral of Palestinian leader Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad), who Israeli sources said was killed by an Israeli hit squad.

The casualties were the first since Israel barred residents of the occupied territories from crossing into Israel Wednesday. Military officials expected fresh protests Thursday.

A military spokesman said the indefinite closure also barred reporters from the two regions.

Police clashed with Palestinians who staged a symbolic funeral for Abu Jihad, deputy military commander of the Palestine Libera-

tion Organisation (PLO) who was assassinated in Tunis Saturday.

Eyewitnesses said police fired tear-gas and arrested several people in Jerusalem when protesters carried a coffin draped with the Palestinian flag.

Nuseirat is among 21 of the 27 refugee camps in the occupied territories placed under a round-the-clock curfew.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak

Resistance battles pro-Israeli militia

RASHAYA, Lebanon (R) — Israeli-backed militiamen fought pitched battles with resistance fighters in South Lebanon Wednesday and security sources reported four dead. They said an officer of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia and three fighters of Hizbollah died in the battles at the village of Ounani. The sources reported two SLA men wounded. The Islamic Resistance said three of its men were wounded in the fighting. It also said it killed or wounded five SLA troops. There was no report on casualties from the SLA. The sources said the battle erupted with rocket-propelled grenades, mortars and machinegun fire when Hizbollah fighters infiltrated into Ounani, 107 kilometres north of Marjayoun, the SLA headquarters. The SLA, backed by tanks and Israeli helicopters, opened fire on Hizbollah fighters as they sneaked into Ounani. The village lies three kilometres inside the "security zone," a strip up to 15 km deep set up by Israel.

Crown Prince, Japan leaders review ties

TOKYO (Agencies) — Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath were received here Wednesday by Japanese Emperor Hirohito at the Imperial Palace.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Prince Hassan conveyed to the emperor greetings from His Majesty King Hussein and best wishes for continued good health and happiness.

The emperor voiced his appreciation of King Hussein's endeavours for achieving prosperity for Jordan and opening new avenues for constructive cooperation between Jordan and Japan. Petra

(Continued on page 5)

King sends message to Saudi leader

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Wednesday left for Riyadh on a visit to Saudi Arabia carrying a message from His Majesty King Hussein to King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia on bilateral relations and the current Arab situation.

Abu Jihad laid to rest after emotional Damascus farewell

From Lamis K. Andoni in Damascus and agency dispatches

ASSASSINATED Palestinian leader Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad) was laid to rest in Damascus Wednesday after an emotional funeral procession which turned into one of the biggest Palestinian nationalist rallies in history.

About a million Palestinians and Syrians took part in the 10-kilometre procession which began from a city hospital to a martyrs' cemetery on the outskirts of the Yarmouk Palestinian refugee camp.

Abu Jihad, deputy military commander of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), was gunned down in Tunis Saturday by an assassination squad, which Tunisia and Israeli sources said was Israeli.

Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the Political Department of the PLO, and Mohammad Sherif Massadeh, leader of the ruling party in Algeria, led the procession. Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) leader George Habash wept openly.

The coffin, draped in a Palestinian flag, was carried by a gun carriage from the morgue at Al Mouwasat hospital to the martyrs cemetery.

The mass funeral was attended by his mother, wife and five children as well as top PLO figures.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi, who were said to be on their way to Damascus to attend the funeral, did not show up.

Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians marched behind the gun carriage carrying Abu Jihad's coffin as it left Al Mouwasat

Tunisia issues warrants for 3 of Abu Jihad assassins

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia said Wednesday it was issuing international arrest warrants for three members of an Israeli assassination squad which gunned down Palestinian leader Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad).

The official news agency TAP said President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali ordered warrants issued for three of the attackers, who used Lebanese passports to enter Tunisia.

It gave the names in which the passports were issued as Khalil Kati, Haouata Alam Mustapha and Goriath Najir Rachad.

The agency did not make clear whether an inquiry into the killing of Abu Jihad had established whether the passports were false. The investigation had shown that the assassins left by sea, TAP said, adding that the three hired getaway cars from local firms for the attack at Abu Jihad's Tunis home.

The passports issued in the names of Kati and Mustapha showed the bearers to have been Lebanese nationals since 1948. The one issued to Rachad said he had been a Lebanese national since 1947. TAP did not say whether these were dates of birth or where the passports were found.

Tunisia has said preliminary inquiries have shown that about seven attackers were involved in the shooting of Abu Jihad and three members of his staff, including two bodyguards.

It said two days ago that Israel employed electronic warfare in the raid, using a military plane whose jamming device cut out local communications in the district of Abu Jihad's home.

The U.N. Security Council will meet Thursday to take up a Tunisian complaint against Israel over the assassination, a U.N. spokesman announced Wednesday.

Council members decided on the timing of the meeting during brief closed-door consultations.

Thousands of others, chanting slogans and flashing "V" for victory, stood on both sides of the road as the convoy drove across Damascus' main Baranki thoroughfare.

"You are the martyr of the uprising," shouted the marchers, referring to the 41-month-old Palestinian revolt in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza.

The emotive funeral of the much-respected Palestinian leader on Syrian soil had raised hopes among Palestinians of a long-sought reconciliation between Damascus and the PLO leadership.

As the cortege headed slowly towards the Yarmouk camp, Palestinian officials said members of the PLO Executive Committee had met Syria's foreign minister to discuss reconciliation.

The PLO members arrived Tuesday for the funeral and held a late-night meeting with Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa, the officials said.

(Continued on page 5)

Pakistan to abide by Afghan agreement obligations

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan said Wednesday it would abide by all obligations under a U.N.-mediated Afghan settlement it signed last week with the Soviet-backed Kabul government.

But Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani told parliament the government would not compel an estimated three million Afghan exiles in Pakistan to return home while an estimated 115,000 Soviet troops withdrew from Afghanistan.

"We have every intention of abiding by every obligation," he said at the end of a two-day debate on the accord, which was

signed in Geneva April 14. The Soviet Union and the United States signed as guarantors.

Opposition politicians and commentators have expressed unease about the prospect of Pakistan continuing to back the Afghan Mujahadeen after statements by President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq and Noorani that the rebels will not be driven out.

Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, winding up the debate, said it would not be right to call the agreement excellent or comprehensive.

"But no better accord could be reached with a superpower," he

said in a reference to the Soviet Union.

Under the agreement, the Soviet Union is to start withdrawing its troops May 15.

The accord, aimed at ending the nine-year-old Afghan war, has no provision for a ceasefire or an end to arms supplies to the warring parties.

The Mujahadeen have vowed to continue fighting until the last Soviet soldier leaves and to set up an Islamic government of their own.

Noorani said he was sure large portions of Afghanistan would be comparatively safe for refugees to

return after the Soviet withdrawal.

"At the same time the government of Pakistan will neither force anybody to go back nor allow anybody to illegally hold back (the refugees)."

Noorani, who signed the accord for Pakistan, called it only "the first step towards an ultimate solution of the Afghanistan problem."

No power could drive the Mujahadeen of their due share in the future Afghan government, he said.

"Ultimate peace will be established there when a government

representing all factions comes into being.

The Mujahadeen have rejected the Geneva accord and Kabul's offer to join a coalition with President Najibullah's ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

In New Delhi, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi told parliament he had invited Najibullah to visit India to discuss Afghanistan's future.

India, a Moscow ally, had a stake in a stable, strong and non-aligned Afghanistan, Gandhi said. He gave no dates for the visit.

Orange blossom honey from the River Jordan

By a Jordan Times Reporter

HUNDREDS of families sampled orange blossom honey from the banks of the River Jordan on Friday, April 15, at the Da'our honey facility in Naour. The annual Honey Day was hosted by Wajih Da'our who offered trays full of honeycomb cubes for finger eating, and honey in cups with plastic spoons for those who didn't want to get their fingers sticky. The pale fragrant honey, which was available for sale as well as tasting, will doubtless flavour the Ramadan sweets of many of these families. Parents and children relaxed around a shaded fountain and observed a small glass-encased hive of the bees at work. In the meantime, Da'our's staff laboured to process tons of the annual harvest, while potential customers observed the steps involved in getting the honey from the comb into a glass jar to take home.

Da'our is an electrical engineer by profession, and a bee keeper by avocation. His bee field is located far from Naour, in a luxuriant orange grove at the northern end of the Jordan Valley. He started his experiments with apiculture in Jordan eight years ago by importing 20 American production queens from Texas and introducing them to hives of Jordanian bees. That summer each hive produced 8 times as much honey as the year before. The offspring of the ori-

ginal queens, when mated with Jordanian drones, produced very active hives of somewhat aggressive bees well suited to defending against the natural enemies in their environment. Bees accomplish 80 per cent of all flower pollination, and their presence in an orchard increases orange production by over 30 per cent according to Da'our.

In 1986 when most of Jordan's bee population was lost to the Varroa Mite, Da'our used Mavrik-treated wood strips to protect his hives against disease and his bees produced their normal output of honey — over 45 kilos per hive. He has written about the success of this treatment in journals published for beekeepers in America where the mite is just beginning to spread.

Da'our participated in a recent field day for bee keepers sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the University of Jordan. Bees are important not just because of the delicious honey they produce, but more so because, while they gather pollen, they are fertilising crops of all kinds, from grains to fruit trees. Raising bees successfully is an exacting science, and the field day demonstrated basic apiculture, ways to protect hives against bee diseases and pesticides, and methods of breeding bees that will not be too aggressive to handle and will produce more honey.



Beehives at Da'our's farm near Naour

Jordan meets the demands of a large local market by importing over 300 tons of honey annually. Abundant local flowers together with long periods of warm temperature make honey production a promising industry here. USAID has provided over JD 6,000 for this educational effort.

The field day was organised by Dr. Ibrahim Nazer of the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Jordan. Dr. Nazer will be leading efforts to organise the participants into a private sector. Beekeepers Association so that they can all benefit from sharing their expertise. Dr. Nazer recently attended a short course at Ohio State University in selecting, breeding, producing and introducing queens. He demonstrated the use of a new machine for instrumental insemination of queen bees, and other new equipment recently acquired by the university for teaching purposes.

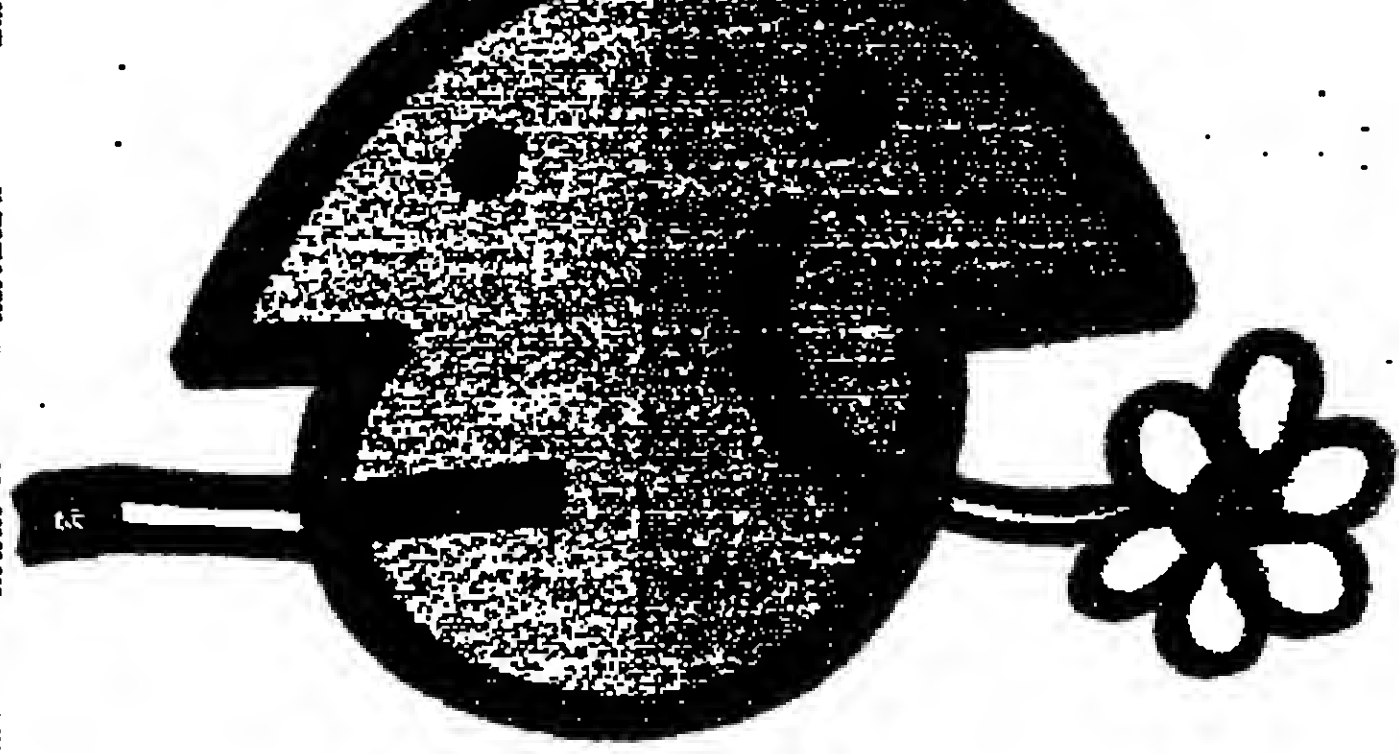
In the afternoon the participants toured the Da'our honey processing plant. At the stainless steel equipped facility participants observed efficient methods for removing honey from the comb, uncapping the pure wax seals on each honey-filled compartment by machine, spinning the combs to extract the honey, filtering and bottling the product. The valuable wax, a by-product, was then rolled into "foundation sheets" upon which the bees could construct more combs when it is returned to the hive. USAID assisted Da'our in attending training at Weaver and Kelley, leading U.S. honey producers in Texas and Kentucky, last autumn to study queen breeding and insemination, and manufacture of bee supplies. Da'our stocks and sells a full range of equipment for bee keepers including wooden hives and metal queen excluders — which keep honey in upper stories of the hive free of larva.



Handling bees with the use of a special protective outfit



If you know how to handle bees there is no fear of being stung



Smokeless tobacco: New threat to society

TOKYO — A "pre-emptive ban" on smokeless tobacco in countries where the product has not been introduced has been called for by a group of experts meeting under the aegis of the World Health Organisation, to "prevent a new public health epidemic from a new form of tobacco use."

Smokeless tobacco is "now being promoted cynically and aggressively around the world despite its known harmful health consequences," the group said as the basis for its recommendations.

Thus countries where smokeless tobacco is not used "should as a matter of urgency, pre-emptively ban the manufacture, importation and sale of smokeless tobacco products before they are introduced into the market."

The use of certain forms of smokeless tobacco — that is, tobacco not smoked but chewed, dipped, or just left in the mouth, even overnight between gum and cheek — has been prohibited in Hong Kong, Ireland, Israel and New Zealand.

Although promoted as an alternative to cigarettes, specially in North America and Western Europe, smokeless tobacco is described by WHO as a "new threat to society" — particularly to young males who are thus far the major targets in sophisticated promotional and advertising campaigns.

Studies have shown "beyond any reasonable doubt," according to Dr. Roberto Masironi, manager of WHO's programme on tobacco or health, that smokeless tobacco is a serious health hazard as a cause of cancer of the oral cavity and of nicotine addiction.

Its use had led to leukoplakia, white patches on gums, which in turn may develop into cancer, and to gums that recede away from the crowns of teeth thereby leaving roots exposed.

Its addition, he says, is "similar to that produced by cigarette-smoking and by other addictive drugs such as morphine or cocaine." Or, as put by the experts: "All tobacco contains carcinogens, and is addictive, and as such, all tobacco use constitutes a health hazard."

In another major recommendation, the experts urged countries where smokeless tobacco is used to subject the product to legislation that is at least as strong as that for cigarettes. The primary objective, however, should be eradication of use.

Among other measures called for are the prohibition of sales to children and adolescents, the prohibition of promotion in the mass media, as well as the involvement of health personnel and teachers in health education drives.

Among techniques used to promote smokeless tobacco are free samples of clothing with brand names, the "introductory" offer of smokeless tobacco in small porous pouches like tea-bags, the sponsorship of sporting events by manufacturers and the endorsement of smokeless tobacco by sports personalities — WHO press release.

TV & RADIO

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PROGRAMME ONE

14:00 Koran
14:20 Programme Review
14:25 Cartoons
15:05 Children's series
15:50 Thousand and One Nights
16:10 Arise play
17:10 Cooking programme
17:20 Religious series
17:50 Health and Fasting
18:00 Arabic comedy
18:50 Ramadan contest
19:00 Religious programme
19:30 Varieties programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Puzzles from all over the world
22:00 Historical series
23:00 News in Arabic
23:10 Arabic series

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Rue Carnot
18:30 The Magical World of Chantal Goya
19:00 News in French
19:15 Sports Bloops
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Kate and Allie
21:10 Wish Me Luck
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film: "Without a Tracer"

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07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
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11:00 Hittville: The story of Motown
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Now Music
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:30 Hall of Fame
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Old Favourites
16:30 Hittville: The story of Motown
17:00 Good Vibrations
17:30 News Summary
18:05 Our Mutual Friend

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1323 KHz

07:00 Newsdesk 07:30 Classical Record Review 07:45 Reflections 07:50 Financial News 08:00 World News 08:09 24 Hours: News Summary 08:30 Peebles' Choice 08:45 The World Today 09:00 Newsdesk 09:30 Great Love Duet 09:40 The Farming World 10:00 World News 10:09 24 Hours: News Summary 10:30 Juke Box Dury 10:45 Jazz Scene 11:00 World News 11:09 Reflections 11:15 Country Style 11:30 John Peel 12:00 World News 12:09 British Press Review 12:15 The World Today 12:30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup 12:45 Society Today 13:00 News Summary followed by Assignment 13:30 King Street Junior 14:00 World News 14:09 News About Britain 14:15 News Ideas 14:25 A Letter from England 14:30 Citizens 15:00 Radio Newsdesk 15:15 Multitrack 2 15:45 Sports Round-up 16:00 World News 16:09 24 Hours: News Summary 16:30 Network UK 16:45 Jazz Scene 17:00 World News 17:09 Reflections 17:15 Minute News 17:45 World On 18:00 Radio Newsdesk 18:15 The Pleasure of Yours 19:00 World News 19:09 Commentary 19:15 Assignment 19:45 The World Today 20:00 World News

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MW 1390 & SW 720, 9545, 11740, 11925 and 12510 KHz

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Jerash committee reviews festival

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor visited Jerash Wednesday where she chaired a meeting of the Higher National Committee for the Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts.

The committee reviewed and endorsed an agenda for the seventh festival which is to be held in the ancient Greco-Roman city this summer.

According to an official statement the following countries are to take part in the festival this summer: Italy, Britain, Bulgaria, France, USA, Yugoslavia, the Soviet Union, Greece, the Philippines, Pakistan, East Germany,

North Korea, Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Morocco, Lebanon and Kuwait. The statement said that folk troupes from these countries will be presenting new tastes of national folk art at the festival which will also display books, paintings and present Arabic poetry reading.

The festival will be held between July 13 and 31, according to the statement.

The Queen last January chaired the committee meeting for an evaluation of the sixth festival, held in July 1987 and a review of the different functions of the seventh festival.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday visits Jerash to chair a meeting of the Higher National Committee for the Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts (Petra photo)

JEA works on supply of electricity to Kharraneh broadcasting facilities

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) is currently carrying out a project of supplying electric power to radio broadcasting facilities being set up near Qasr Kharraneh east of Amman, according to a JEA official.

He said that 60 per cent of the work of installing equipment and laying cables for the project has been completed.

The work entails setting up a transformer station, and expanding the Sahab station to supply the required power for the new radio facilities, the official said.

Minister of Information Hani Khasawneh earlier this month visited Kharraneh broadcasting transmission station where work started in 1986.

According to officials, experimental transmission is due to begin in August 1988, and the new station is expected to make a wider coverage than the existing one.

They said that the new station will have short, medium and long wave transmission systems, with the short wave transmitter broadcasting at 500 kilowatt power,

covering North and South America, Canada, Europe, North Africa, the Gulf states, Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

The medium wave transmitter with a 1,000 kilowatt power, covers the Gulf region, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and North Africa, especially at night, while the long wave transmitter which has a 1,200 kilowatt power, provides local coverage and areas around Jordan day and night.

The project, being implemented by a Swiss firm, is set up on a 25 square kilometre land.



UBEIDI BIDS FAREWELL: Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Secretary General Ubeidi Wednesday called on Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi to bid him farewell upon being transferred to a new

post. Lawzi voiced Jordan's appreciation for Ubeidi's services during his mandate at the Amman-based CAEU and his endeavours for promoting economic integration among Arab countries (Petra photo)

Amman, Baghdad discuss role of Aqaba port in Iraqi trade

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A team of officials from the Iraqi Ministry of Industry and Trade met in Amman Wednesday with Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan to discuss the transportation of Iraqi goods through the seaport of Aqaba.

The two sides reviewed an earlier agreement for the exportation of 400,000 tonnes of Iraqi sulphur and 200,000 tonnes of super phosphate annually via the Jordanian port.

The minister said that Jordan would continue to offer Iraq all the necessary facilities to enable it to export its products, and the delegation leader voiced his country's appreciation to Jordan for its support and help, at a time when it is involved in fending off external danger.

Haj Hassan Tuesday visited the headquarters of the Arab Maritime Bridge Company and urged its management to work out programmes for the company's opera-

tions in two stages, ensuring development and success. The company groups Jordan, Iraq and Egypt and has a \$6 million capital shared equally by the three countries.

Haj Hassan underlined the importance of the company's operations through the Aqaba-North Sinai land-sea route to bolster inter Arab trade.

The minister heard a report by the company director general on preliminary steps taken for such operations, which include transporting goods and passengers between Iraq, Jordan and Egypt, and inspected the company's financial and administrative reg-

ulations and bylaws.

The joint company, which began operations last month, is reported by Al Rai Arabic daily as transporting no less than 2,000 passengers between the three countries on a daily basis.

The joint company owns two large vessels at present which serve as ferry boats transporting passengers and their vehicles and cars between Nweibeh and Aqaba.

The three sides had agreed that Mr. Suleiman Mitwalli, the Egyptian minister of transport, should be president of the company's board of directors for the first two years, then the post will rotate between ministers of the three countries.

Upon the formation of the company, Jordan announced that it will be open for other Arab states to join.

Mitwalli said the new company is bound to promote inter-Arab economic integration.



Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan receives a delegation from the Iraqi Ministry of Industry and Trade in Amman Wednesday (Petra photo)

Soviet labour team ends visit to Jordan

AMMAN — A delegation representing Soviet labour unions ended a visit to Jordan during which its members held talks with Jordanian labour unions and toured a number of industries and archaeological sites.

A statement issued by the two sides at the end of their meetings voiced total Jordanian and Soviet support for the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied

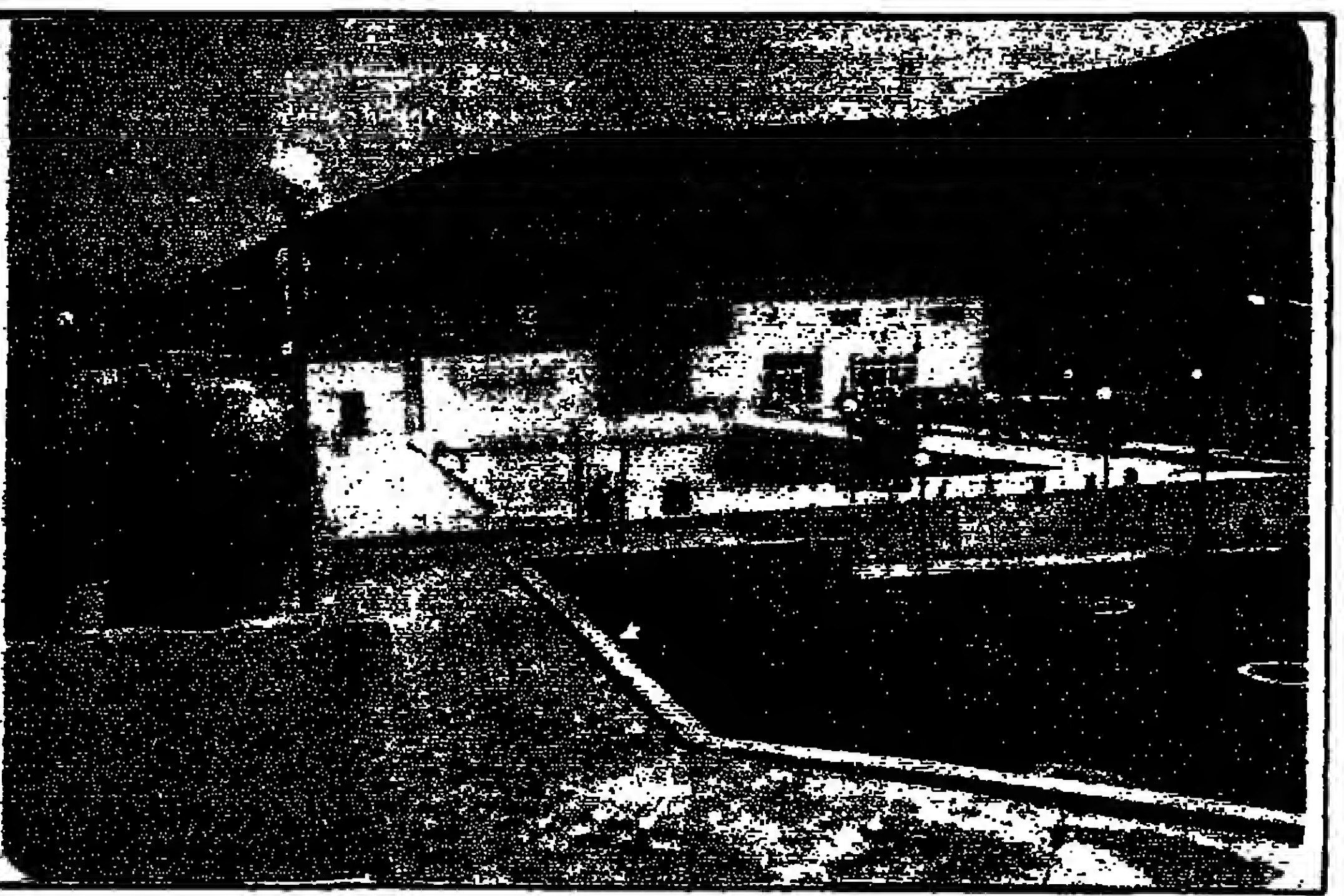
Arab territories and backed the Arab countries stand in demanding an international peace conference to end the Arab-Israeli struggle.

The two sides demanded an end to the Gulf war through peaceful negotiations and supported Arab just causes.

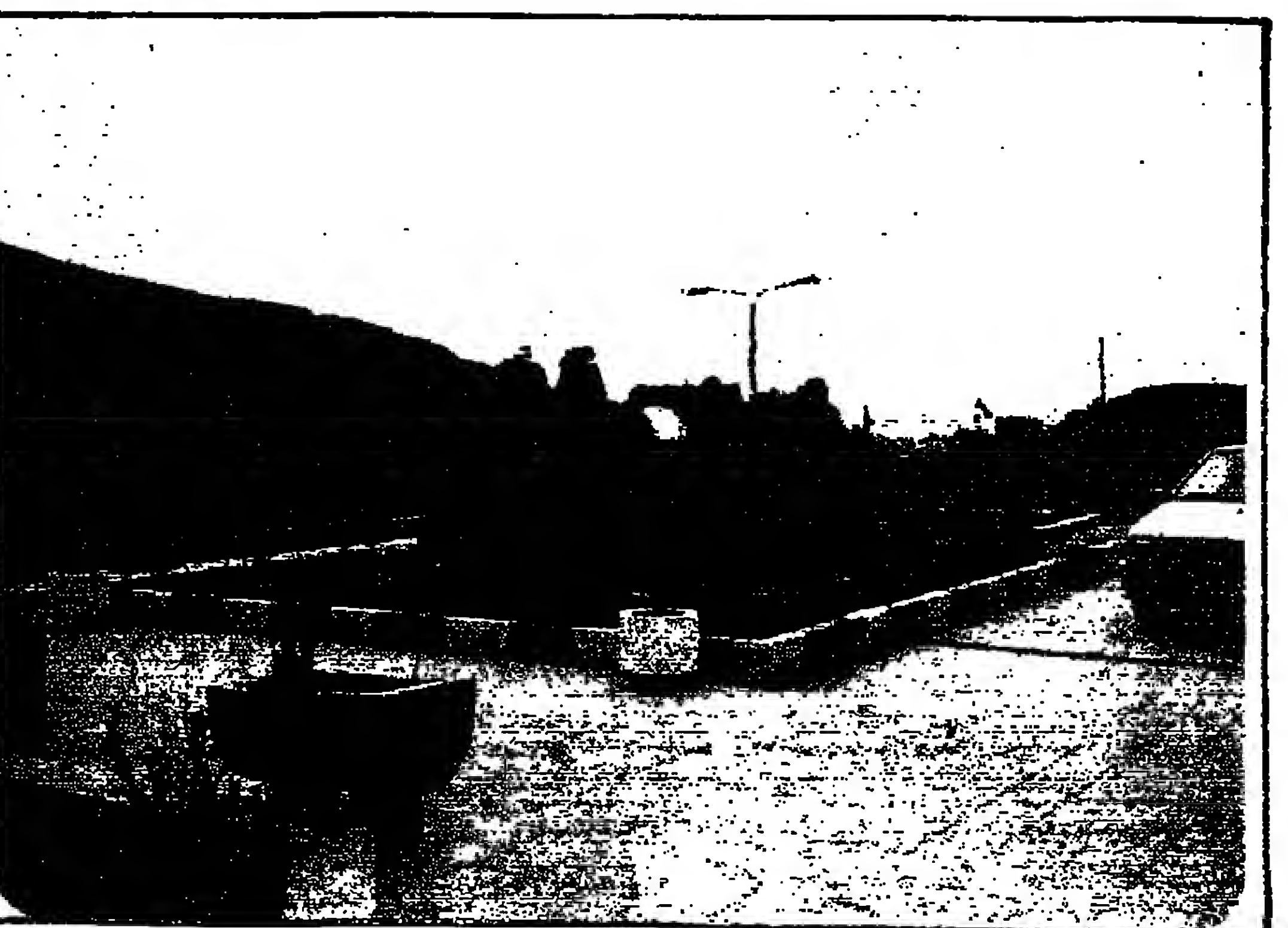
They expressed desire to promote bilateral cooperation and

joint cultural, scientific and informational activity towards promoting the cause of world peace, and supporting the just struggle of liberation movements.

The two sides signed a protocol on joint cooperation to provide exchanges of visits by workers unions to either country, expertise and information material and vocational training.



The open swimming pool



The public garden and the car park



A general view of Al Himmeh spa

Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh inaugurates the health centre at Um Tineh, east of Wadhat, Wednesday (Petra photo)

Health minister opens Um Tineh Health Centre

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh Wednesday inaugurated a health centre at Um Tineh, east of Wadhat, where a new housing estate has been set up by the Urban Development Department (UDD).

The project, which cost JD 100,000, will serve the 550 families in the housing estate, in addition to the 30,000 inhabitants

of Um Tineh itself, Al Wihdat and Al Ashrafieh.

The new centre offers first aid, mother and child care services, general medical examination by practitioners, and has a pharmacy, laboratory and a lecture hall.

UDD Director General Hisham Al Zagher and health officials were present at the opening ceremony.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE: Prime Minister Zaid Rifai has approved the formation of a national children's committee. The 15-member committee is chaired by Minister of Labour and Social Development Rashid Ureikat.

CHILD KILLED BY BUS: A four-year old child identified as Mohammad Samir Mahmoud was killed and two others were injured when they were hit by a bus in Baqaa area.

U.S. ENVOY: Deputy Prime Minister Thoukan Al Hindawi Wednesday met with the U.S. Ambassador in Amman Roscoe Suddarth.

CABINET APPROVES BUDGET: The Cabinet has approved the 1988 budget and the employment schedule of the Hijaz-Jordan Railway.

TRIPLETS IN ZARQA: A 21-year old woman Ahlam Mousa from Zarqa has given birth to triplets, two boys and one girl, whose weights range from 1600 grammes to 1900 grammes, according to a report in the local press. The report quoted Dr. Abdul Hafiz Tawalbeh who supervised the delivery as saying that the babies were prematurely born and the delivery involved a surgical operation.

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES: Jordan will take part in a series of religious sessions which will be held in Morocco during the holy month of Ramadan under the patronage of King Hassan II of Morocco. The Ministry of Awaqaf and Islamic Affairs secretary general and the General Mufti of Jordan will both take part in these sessions.

PEOPLE'S ARMY: A ceremony was held at Douira district for the graduation of three batches of People's Army recruits including government department officials. The local military commander was present at the ceremony and delivered a speech on the occasion.

DRUG CASE: A military court has sentenced Jamal Mahmoud Al Sahar to three years imprisonment and the payment of JD 200 for trafficking with hashish. The military governor Wednesday endorsed the sentence.

TRAFFIC DAY: A ceremony marking the World Traffic Day will be held at Tafleh on May 11 during which a number of drivers and traffic police officers will be honoured. Arrangements for the ceremony were discussed at a meeting with the Tafleh deputy governor Wednesday. The ceremony will be organised by the Jordan Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents.

KARAK TRAINING COURSE: The Department of Education in Karak Wednesday held a training course on measurements and specifications for teachers in the secondary stage. A total of 45 teachers from government schools in the Karak governorate took part in the course.

HOMES FOR TEACHERS: The Department of Education in Ma'an has endorsed a project to set up homes for teachers in the Ma'an governorate. These homes will be set up at Basta, Shobak, Murigha, Rajef, Mohammadiyeh, Bir Haddad and Tazan.

COLD FRONT: Jordan was Wednesday under the effect of a cold front centred in the higher layers of the atmosphere causing a state of instability, according to the Department of Meteorology. It said that rain was expected to fall in most regions of the Kingdom and there will be a noticeable drop in temperature.

ELECTRIC POWER: The total electric power generated in the Kingdom reached 3486 GW/H during 1987 up from 2955 GW/H in 1986 which means an increase of 18 per cent, according to Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) sources. JEA generated 88.1 per cent of the total electric power produced in the Kingdom in 1987.

INCREASING GARBAGE COLLECTION FEES: The Greater Amman Municipality is currently studying the possibility of increasing the garbage collection fees for hotels, hospitals and restaurants, because they require larger garbage collection services compared with normal households.

HIGHER HEALTH COUNCIL: The Higher Health Council will hold a meeting next Monday under the chairmanship of Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh to discuss the nursing situation in Jordan until the end of this century. The meeting will also discuss ways of achieving self-sufficiency in the number of nurses to eliminate dependence on foreign nurses.

EGYPTIAN TRADE TEAM: A high-level Egyptian trade delegation will begin an official visit to Jordan Saturday for talks with the Jordanian side on boosting economic and trade relations between the two countries. During their three-day meetings the two sides will sign a new economic deal and a new protocol amounting to \$250 million for each side. The delegation represents the Egyptian side in the technical committee formed by the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee.

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Balance, fairness

ISRAELI Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's suggestion that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze should visit Israel during his upcoming trip to the Middle East is a further indication that a gradual return to normal ties between the Soviet Union and Israel is in the making, and we suspect that such a development bodes well for prospects for resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict through peaceful negotiations. If an international conference is to be held, the Soviets will have to play a key role in it, along with the United States and the other permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. This suggests that Israel and the Soviet Union should have normal diplomatic ties, and Mr. Shamir said that such a development would help peace prospects.

But this is only half the picture. The other half is that the United States should have similar normal relations with the Palestinian people, notably through their sole legitimate representative, the PLO. The fact is that both superpowers must be involved in promoting a negotiated settlement, and probably in multilateral arrangements to guarantee it as well. The agreement on the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan suggests that the two superpowers have the interest and the ability to work together to help resolve regional conflicts in an equitable and realistic manner; and we hope that such joint action, based on the principles of international law and the dictates of universally accepted human and political rights, could prove fruitful in other regional conflicts, such as the Middle East, southern Africa or Latin America.

A key element of such an approach, however, is balance and fairness. In this case, it would seem logical, even imperative, that the United States and the Soviet Union should have normal working relationships with the two key protagonists in the region, namely Israel and the Palestinians. The Israelis would be naive to expect that they can call for normal ties with Moscow while Washington refuses to deal with the PLO. A more realistic approach would be to foster good working relationships among all the concerned parties, as a key step towards convening an international conference in an atmosphere that would be conducive to trust and compromise. To see the Soviets moving towards normal ties with Israel while the Americans continue to act in a hostile manner towards the Palestinians and the PLO strikes us as lacking the sort of balance that the situation warrants.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Israeli crime

THE Israeli occupation authorities have deported another eight Palestinians from the occupied Arab territories to Lebanon in yet another crime to be committed against the Palestinian people who are uprising for freedom. This action reflects the criminal nature of the Israelis who are used to committing all sorts of oppression against the Arabs, but it also manifests the great fear dominating the Israeli society which has usurped Arab lands, and rules out any form of co-existence between the Arabs and Jews in Palestine. Since this is a struggle for existence on the land then there can be only one result: Either the Arabs remain living in their homeland or the Zionists will succeed to take their place. The deportation of the eight Arabs is part of Israel's established policy to consolidate its occupation hold over the Arab land and the Arab people. Such actions are in flagrant violation of international principles and human rights. This deportation act reflects Israeli leaders failure to put down the revolt and contain the rage of the protesters who reject occupation and continue to offer sacrifice for freedom and liberation. This policy will not succeed in stifling the spirit of resistance among the Palestinians and will not stop the legitimate owners of the land from pursuing their efforts to regain their property. The Palestinian youths will continue to shake the ground under Israel's feet through their stones and their determination to fight and struggle against the enemy. But it is the duty of all peace loving nations to condemn such Israeli crimes and help re-establish justice in our land.

Al Dustour: Encouraged by U.S. vetoes

THE Israelis deported eight more Arabs from their homeland in total disregard of the will of the international community and the United Nations organization. The deportation followed another one just a few days ago, and both were justified by Israel as "security measures to ensure stability and peace in the occupied territories." Israel, encouraged by the U.S. veto at the Security Council and lack of proper response from the world community, is going ahead with the deportation policy with the hope of stemming the uprising. Of course Israeli leaders are responsible for the eviction of the eight Arabs, but U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz bears part of the responsibility because it was he who pledged that the U.S. will never permit the Security Council to pass any resolution condemning Israel's actions. It is this kind of encouragement which Israel gets from the U.S. that makes it adamant in its position and pursuing a criminal course in dealing with the Arabs. Shultz's statement can only be regarded as a green light for Israel to go ahead with repressive measures against the Palestinians, including deportation. We are not surprised to see Israel pursuing the policy of deportation since the Arab World remains impotent, and unable to take any retaliatory action to deter the Jewish state from taking these measures. These Israeli actions and the on-going repression being practised on our people should prompt all Arab countries to question the U.S. about its behaviour, which is indeed encouraging the Israeli enemy in pursuing such crimes. The Arabs should question the status of the U.S. as a mediating power in the Middle East problem, and should ask it to stop its prevarication and deception in its dealings with the Arabs.

Sawt Al Shaab: Relying on U.S. support

ISRAEL'S deportation of eight more Arabs from their homeland forms part of the Jewish state's repressive policy against the Palestinian people who are involved in an uprising against occupation. Despite world-wide condemnation of Israel's oppression in the occupied territories, Israeli leaders seem to be intent on pursuing their criminal policies, relying on American support and unlimited help at military, diplomatic and economic levels. There is no doubt that Washington's resort to the veto at the U.N. Security Council last week encouraged Israel to go ahead with plans to carry out more deportations. If Israel believes that through these actions it can stem the uprising it must be wrong, because the Palestinians are determined to rid themselves of occupation and win freedom.

American Christian Zionists see in Israel the fulfilment of Biblical prophecies

By Rev. Donald E. Wagner

The following is the third part of a study on Western fundamentalist Christian Zionism presented by the writer to a Middle East Council of Churches working group in Limassol, Cyprus in April, 1988. The Jordan Times is serialising the study in four parts.

Premillennialism blossoms in America

A. FROM 1735 to 1775 the dominant view among American Evangelicals and revivalist preachers such as Jonathan Edwards was postmillennialism. All taught the Second Coming and personal conversion. Many saw America as the New Israel which was called to bring the world to belief in Jesus Christ, thus ushering in the New Kingdom.

B. From 1800 to 1850 an emphasis was placed on the holiness doctrine and millennialism. In the 1840's, a teaching called Millennialism swept the east coast of the United States with many adherents selling their belongings to meet Jesus in 1843. The broader Great Awakening and emphasis on revivalist preaching and Biblical prophecy prepared the way for Darby and the premillennialist doctrine to take hold following the turmoil of the Civil War period (1860-1865).

C. During the period from 1867 to 1920, the important Bible and Prophecy Conference Movement provided a significant forum for Darby and other premillennialists to articulate their views. By the late 1880's premillennialism and a form of Christian Zionism were widely adopted by American Evangelicals and many leaders within mainstream Protestantism (Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Methodists, etc.).

D. The major American figure to popularise a political form of Christian Zionism was William E. Blackstone, author of the best-selling book "Jesus Is Coming" in 1881. He organised the first

American lobby effort on behalf of the creation of a Jewish State in Palestine. Six years before Theodore Herzl convened the World Zionist Congress, Blackstone initiated an intensive campaign, gathering support from U.S. Senators, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and such business figures as John D. Rockefeller, Charles B. Scribner, and J.P. Morgan. The campaign called upon then President Benjamin Harrison to call for the creation of a Jewish State in Palestine. Blackstone also had contact with Herzl. When the Zionist leader began to discuss with the British government the possibility of establishing a Jewish state in Uganda or Argentina, Blackstone sent him a Bible with all passages referring to Israel and Palestine underlined, with clear instructions to the effect that only Palestine must be the site of the Jewish state.

E. The most important instrument of spreading the premillennial dispensationalist doctrine, and as such, Christian Zionism, was the publication of the Scofield Reference Bible in 1909. C.I. Scofield created an edition of the Bible with notes and commentary based upon the premillennial dispensationalist approach. It quickly became the only edition read by American Evangelicals and the new fundamentalist movement.

F. By World War I, premillennialism was the approach to Biblical eschatology among American Evangelicals. They took their name and doctrinal programme from a series of pamphlets published between 1910-1915

which was titled "The Fundamentals" and distributed free across the United States. Both Evangelicals and fundamentalists supported the doctrine that the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine would fulfil certain Biblical prophecies, but the average believer did not reflect upon the Biblical and political presuppositions and ramifications of such a position. The premillennial dispensationalist approach began to be prominent in many mainstream Protestant denominations, particularly at the level of the laity and in conservative circles of the clergy.

The revival of fundamentalist Christian Zionism in the 1970s-80s

Christian Zionism was neither a movement nor a well developed system of theology in American Evangelical or fundamentalist circles until the mid-1970s although both circles generally accepted the essential premises of Christian Zionism. However, the birth of Israel in 1948 was, for most Evangelicals and fundamentalists, confirmation that their premillennialist doctrine was correct and that Jesus' return was near. Israel's lightning victory in 1967 and its capture of Jerusalem provided ample proof that they were in the last days. Billy Graham's father-in-law, L. Nelson Bell, wrote in the major Evangelical journal "Christianity Today": "That for the first time in more than 2000 years Jerusalem is now completely in the hands of the Jews gives a student of the Bible a thrill and a renewed faith in the accuracy and validity of the Bible."

Soon books such as Hal Lindsey's "The Late Great Planet Earth" became best sellers, placing both a premillennialist and

Christian Zionist position in the form of a best-selling paperback and motion picture. By the early 1970s there was an explosion of publications and television evangelists who proclaimed a form of Christian Zionism within the premillennialist doctrines, including predictions of events during the last days. By 1976 a religious and political marriage was consummated between American Zionist organisations, Israeli leadership, and fundamentalist Christian Zionists.

A. In 1976-77, four events occurred which accelerated American Christian Zionism as a political phenomenon:

1. Menachem Begin and his Likud Bloc came to power in Israel in 1977 on a revisionist Zionist platform which utilised Biblical concepts.

2. In the United States, a triangular political force developed among neo-conservative political theorists, the Israeli lobby, and fundamentalist Christians. They found general agreement existed on many domestic and foreign policy issues, particularly the priority of Israel. The Israeli lobby recognised that the fundamentalists could be a key to develop political support from the 50-60 million American Evangelicals.

3. In 1976, Jimmy Carter, a "born again" Southern Baptist Sunday School teacher, was elected President, drawing heavily on the Evangelical and fundamentalist vote. Carter, however, upset the Israeli lobby and fundamentalist Christians when he called for the creation of a Palestinian homeland, thus beginning his loss of support from the above voting blocs.

4. The Israeli lobby and Christian Zionists initiated a national campaign against Carter's sup-

port of the Palestinians and began to publish a series of full page advertisements in major American newspapers. This enormously costly campaign, which took a clear premillennialist Christian Zionist approach, was titled "Evangelicals' Concern for Israel." Several major American fundamentalist leaders signed the advertisement, including the entertainer Pat Boone, Dr. Vernon Grounds (President of the Conservative Baptist Seminary), Dr. Kenneth Kantzer (President of Trinity Divinity School), and others.

B. The 1980s: The election of Ronald Reagan to the presidency of the United States ushered in a significantly pro-Israel era with several members of the president's cabinet holding the premillennialist perspective. The president himself subscribes to the premillennialist theology, according to statements and interviews he has given over the past two decades.

1. In October, 1983, Reagan told the chief Israeli lobbyist, Tom Dine, the following view which was reported in the press: "You know, I turn back to the ancient prophets in the Old Testament and the signs foretelling Armageddon, and I find myself wondering if — if we're the generation that is going to see that come about. I don't know if you've noted any of those prophecies lately, but believe me they certainly describe the times we're going through."

The nature of this conversation was instructive as well, for the president had telephoned Dine to thank him for the efforts of the Israeli lobby to secure votes in support of the U.S. military presence in Lebanon. A few days

later 279 U.S. Marines died in an attack on their compound near the Beirut Airport.

2. In another conversation, the president and Senator Howell Heflin of Alabama struck a similar theme. The senator reported: "We got off into the Bible a bit. We were talking about the fact that the Middle East, according to the Bible, would be the place where Armageddon would start. The president was talking to me about the scriptures and I was talking a little to him about the Scriptures. He interprets the Bible and Armageddon to mean that Russia is going to get involved in it."

Here we see one of the major attractions of the premillennialist-Christian Zionist scheme. The role of Israel in the premillennialist scenario, as by Hal Lindsey and others, is to defeat "Russia" according to their reading of Ezekiel 38-39 (Gog and Magog), Daniel 9, Revelation.

3. It is still too early to discern what direction the politicised Christian Zionists will take in the post-Reagan era. The decline of Pat Robertson's presidential candidacy and recent scandals involving certain televangelist indicate there may be a "pulling back" by the pro-Israel lobby and a desire to recover the Catholic and mainline Protestant churches. Recent pressures placed upon the Roman Catholic Church during the Pope's U.S. tour (September, 1987) and upon Protestant denominations indicate there may be such a plan. These developments bear further analysis, particularly concerning the fundamentalist Christian Zionists, who still represent a major block of votes for pro-Israeli issues.

A call for bridge building

The writer is a Palestinian engineer who works in an industrial concern in the West Bank. The article is reprinted from the Israeli newspaper, The Jerusalem Post.

By Mohamed M. Alami

THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN conflict has been blessed with more proposed solutions than any other in modern history. These wide-ranging solutions have been offered by not only the parties to the conflict but also by former powers, current superpowers and potential world powers.

Some proposals have been prudently tailored by one or more parties to fit some predetermined objectives. (This is not the case in the current Shultz mission). Others have been shaped and dictated by the events of the day — war, an uprising or whatever sudden turns the course of conflict might take. The reaction to such sudden proposals is naturally either confusion or rejection by the one or more sides taken most by surprise.

Invariably, and despite the numerous proposals, the conflict continues, with further desperation and suffering for the Palestinians.

It is worthwhile to cite the outstanding proposed solutions to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. They are:

□ Continuation of mildly modified form of the status quo.

□ A form of internal rule for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and connected, in one form or another, to Israel, Jordan or both.

□ An independent state (demilitarised or otherwise) in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for all Palestinians.

From the Palestinian point of view, the precarious nature of the status quo can easily slide into an eventual annexation and continued uprisings. The logical outcome of this will be an increasing temptation to expel the Palestinians en masse, regardless of the consequences.

Internal rule of whatever form for the "inside" Palestinians (of the West Bank and Gaza Strip) may be described in many ways. But it cannot be considered a stable resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict because it selectively opts to settle the affairs of only half of the Palestinian people.

On the other hand, many and maybe the majority of Palestinians, and not an insignificant number of Israelis, Arabs and others, believe that the two-state concept might be the answer: Green Line Israel and a slightly modified West Bank and Gaza Palestine.

This conjures up visions of two neighbours living side by side and conflict-free. These same Palestinians and Israelis may even be excused their optimism that to br-

ing lasting peace a step closer, Israel would be convinced or pressured into returning the Golan Heights to Syria.

Here at last we might have a peace with at least some justice and some security — or as much as verbal or written guarantees can render possible. A peace that would at least in Palestinian eyes be more stable than the other options discussed above. A peace that might last.

But for how long? The answer requires a more sober approach to the history of the conflict.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict would certainly have been easier to resolve had it not been for another factor: the Arab/Islamic dimensions. (It is beyond the scope of this article to dwell on the inter-relationship between Arabs and Islam and the term Arab will be used).

It cannot be over-emphasised that had it not been for this dimension, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict would have been by and large resolved in 1948 and sealed for a long time by the 1967 war which ended completely in Israel's favour. The Palestinians owe at least this much to their fellow Arabs.

It is still not properly appreciated what a watershed the 1948 events have been in this respect. The momentous creation of Israel coupled with the disastrous uprooting of the Palestinians were more than sufficient to blur the increasing involvement of the Arab dimension. The Arab-Israeli conflict overshadowed and dwarfed the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

From a Palestinian point of view, the struggle has since been the re-establishment and maintenance of an independent presence in this land. A presence largely and internationally ignored by Israeli politics and more than occasionally squeezed by fellow Arabs.

From a position of continued suffering and desperation, the average Palestinian, wherever quartered, has sought this independent political stand or its symbol thereof, the PLO. It is precisely as a symbol of this independence that the PLO proved to be most successful, a remarkable achievement indeed when one considers its diverse political components and the repeated military thrashings it has received from Israel and some Arabs.

It would be foolhardy to dismiss the affirmation conferred by the Intifada on the PLO in this respect.

The quest for the re-establishment of an independent Palestinian stand did not appear to be very evident or strong in the period between 1948 and 1967. The trauma of the 1948 events coupled with the subsequent strong championing of their cause by then-Egyptian President Abdel Nasser and others did much to confuse the Palestinians.

A confusion that led their majority to assume that their conflict with Israel was one and the same, as that of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

This confusion certainly lingered after 1967 and was to cost them and their Arab brethren much agony. Arab regimes of varying colours could no longer tolerate premature risks simply to oblige pressures of whatever magnitude exerted by the Palestinians. These risks could have jeopardised Arab development in many crucial areas including the military and economic fields. The Palestinians appear to have finally discovered that the two conflicts, though aimed in the same direction, vary not only in magnitude and scope but also in pace.

It is imperative that we — Palestinians, Arabs and Israelis — understand that the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, though a vital prerequisite to a comprehensive peace, is no substitute for the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. But resolution of the latter need not preclude the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In the prevailing political climate there appears to be a desire for some measure of stability emanating from both the Arab and Israeli camps. Their reasons are in many ways varied, but one common theme appears to be economic development and the need to spend less on arms.

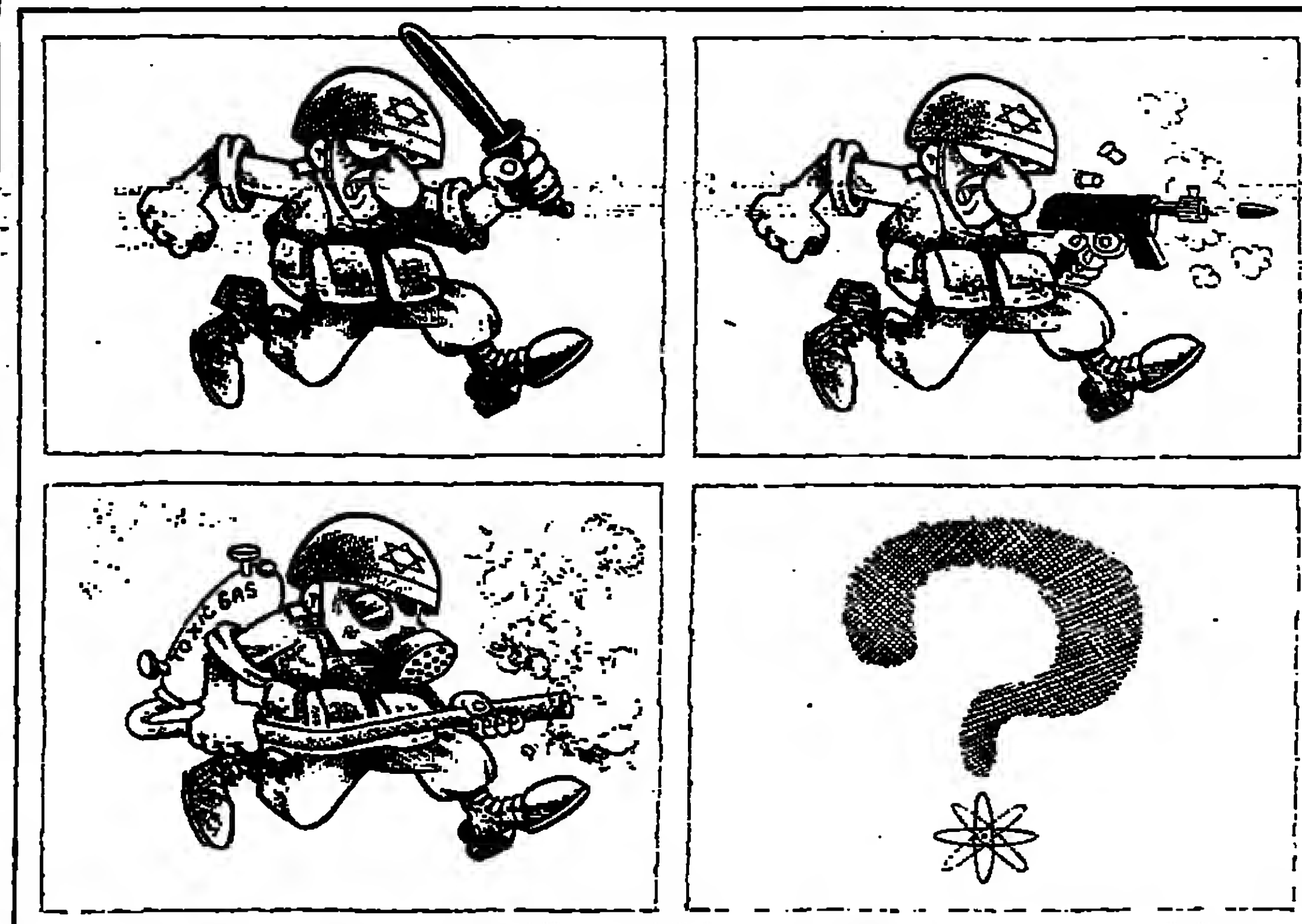
The superpowers, the EC and others, each for reasons of its own, appear not to wish major disruptions in the region at this stage. This amorphous consensus can be used to help resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict thereby imbuing a significant measure of stability to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Success in this respect would deprive neither Israel nor the Arabs of their option to reactivate the conflict when deemed timely. After all, consensus and stability can only last as long as the prevailing equilibrium would hold (military, economic, political, etc.).

The Palestinians, for their part, have had few options all along. One is that they appear to be in a position to veto any solution that does not grant them their own state. Another, is their capability to permeate instability in a region in which they are stateless. They are stateless everywhere and mostly concentrated in regions that desire stability most.

Israel, on the other hand, has a different set of problems. Its past successes were undoubtedly due in part to its own human resourcefulness. Its military successes have also been due in part to the underdevelopment of its adversaries.

One of the current options is to start the process of joining the Middle East not on the basis of military superiority but on the basis of mutual benefit. This is a long hard option that requires much bridge building.



Israel — what future?

By Bernard Edinger
Reuter

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — "The sense of persecution remains the national glue."

Thus wrote Ze'ev Chafetz in his 1986 book, "Inside The New Israel," a classic for students of Israeli society.

Forty years after Israel's creation, feelings of insecurity probably remain the biggest common denominator running through the society despite major population changes and concentration of the greatest military power in the area.

"I know you wouldn't think so when you see the aggressive behaviour of many Israelis, their harsh manners and crazy driving," said a veteran government official.

"But the fact is, the major sensitivity of Israelis, like it always was with Jews, is existential, it's a need for security," said the official, who fought in most of Israel's wars.

Chafetz wrote: "Not a day goes by without press reports of the persecution of Jews. The anti-Jewish ravings of Idi Amin, Louis Farrakhan, Ayatollah Khomeini, the German Greens, the radical right, the new left, the Arab centre — all are noted and reported."

"Every anti-Israeli or anti-Jewish statement or action feeds omnipresent fear and rage and people take a perverse pleasure in collecting examples."

On April 21, Israel marks the 40th anniversary of its creation. This corresponds in the Hebrew calendar to the date on which the state was proclaimed on May 14, 1948, the same day that the British mandate in Palestine came to end.

The first Arab-Israeli war

broke out immediately.

Death from across hostile borders has been a constant companion to each new generation of Israelis. A boy born with the new state will have fought in major wars in 1967 and 1973 as well as in the 1968-70 war of attrition and the 1982 Lebanon campaign.

In the first years, David Ben-Gurion's formidable personality imprinted his down-to-earth pioneering spirit and egalitarian Socialist ideals on the country.

"People were ashamed to admit if they had money then, everyone wore shorts and a man would virtually be laughed off the street if he wore a tie," said one long-time resident.

Forty years later, Israelis may be as patriotic but they have entered the race to materialism with a vengeance.

The demand for new cars, bigger houses and more fashionable clothes is omnipresent except in ascetic, religiously-dominated Jerusalem. Hedonistic Tel Aviv, with fashionable restaurants, throbbing discos and an active beach scene, is viewed by many as one of the most exciting cities on the Mediterranean.

The kibbutzim (collective farms) which were to be living examples of Socialist ideals engage themselves now in capitalist ventures and have lost much of their former moral influence.

Many ascribe the break with Socialism to relative economic affluence and a desire to emulate the United States, Israel's main economic and political backer.

When the state was proclaimed, there were about 650,000 Jews here, mostly European-born or of European stock.

The ethnic makeup of society has changed beyond belief. Well over half the Jewish population of 3.5 million are Jews who arrived

from Islamic states after 1948 and their children.

Doomsayers predicted 20 years ago impending strife between dominating Ashkenazi, or European Jews and Sephardi, or oriental Jews then seeking to assert a place in society.

"They were totally disapproved by inter-marriage. Children of the two groups mingled and more than a quarter of marriages today are between the two communities" an official said.

Most Israeli Jews now are native born. One result is that a once thriving foreign language press is dying along with its aged readers while Hebrew, a "dead" language revived after 2,000 years, re-asserts its predominance.

The country also includes 700,000 Arab Palestinians within pre-1967 borders whose relations with Jews are uneasy due to Israel's rule since 1967 over 1.5 million fellow Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

What has not changed is constant preoccupation with the way Israel is seen by the world at large.

"I'll tell you a story," said an official, "about two men who go to a circus to see a highwire artist who performs brilliantly and concludes by playing a Paganini solo on the violin high above the ground without a net."

"The crowd goes wild except for one of the two men who is indifferent. 'What's the matter, he was great,' says the first man. 'Nahhh' replies the second 'Paganini played the violin better.' 'Well,' concluded the story teller, 'That's how Israelis think the world looks at us, we can never do well enough.'"

Council of Churches denounces Christian Zionist congress

LIMASSOL (J.T.) — The general secretary of the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) has issued a statement denouncing the second international "Christian" Zionist congress, which was held in Jerusalem last week. The MECC rejected the congress as a Western intrusion with no authority nor support from the churches of the Middle East.

In a statement to church leaders throughout the world, Kathryn Habib warned Christian leaders:

"If the international manifestations, projected through

the so-called international Christian embassy in Jerusalem, occur unchallenged on the basis of Christian faith and ethics, the church's silence will be interpreted as acceptance of the sacralisation of the modern state of Israel."

Habib added that the "Christian" Zionist meeting of April 10-14, 1988, in Jerusalem was "a deliberate attempt to politicise Christians in support of Israel and its 'iron fist' policies at the expense of the local Christian communities who suffer with all the Palesti-

nians from the injustices resulting from repressive and dehumanising policies explicitly adopted by Israel."

At the same time, the heads of churches in Jerusalem rejected the "Christian" Zionist meeting and its sponsors, the international Christian embassy, stating:

"We do not acknowledge this body nor its activities and conferences... we are the representatives of Christianity here, venerating and safe-guarding the holy places, and we do not expect people coming from

abroad, unaware of our problems, to act on our behalf."

The MECC is alerting the churches of the Middle East and those around the world to dissociate themselves from all programmes and declarations made by the international Christian embassy and its conferences. MECC is distributing background papers and analysis of "Christian" Zionism which will assist the churches in their united stand against "Christian" Zionism. (see four-part series published by the Jordan Times on page 4)

Institute of Arab World in Paris hosts seminar on urban growth

PARIS (Agencies) — Urban renewal and the challenges posed by the continued growth of big cities were the themes of an international seminar held at the new Institute of the Arab World in Paris, March 28 - April 1, 1988.

The seminar was one of a number of events organised by the Aga Khan Unit for Housing and Urbanisation at Harvard's Graduate School of Design. The unit was set up in 1987 with a gift of \$530,000 from the Aga Khan to complement the work of the Aga Khan Programme for Islamic Architecture established at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1980.

The week-long seminar was sponsored jointly with the new Institute of the Arab World. The institute, officially opened by President Francois Mitterrand in November 1987, is a unique venture underwritten by 20 Arab states and France. Its aim is to develop and deepen knowledge and understanding of the Arab World and to promote ex-

changes, communication and cooperation.

About 100 planners, architects and policy-makers from some 26 countries in Asia, Europe, the Middle East, North America and Africa participated in the session.

Discussions were based on a series of presentations of specific urban projects. These illustrated both the attempts to renew decaying inner cities and to build new urban areas.

An example of the latter was a session devoted to the new diplomatic quarter in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, introduced by Mohammed Al Sheikh, director at the Riyadh Development Authority.

Charles Correa, the renowned Indian architect, talked about his native city of Bombay in the context of national urban policy.

in Syria, Shanghai, the London Docklands, the Olympic Village at Barcelona in Spain, Cairo, Algiers and Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

The seminar coincided with an exhibition — also held at the Institute of the Arab World in Paris — of photographs and drawings on the 39 projects that have received the Aga Khan Award for Architecture over the past decade.

The projects exhibited reflected the richness and diversity of Islamic culture. These included, among others, a low-income community development at Ismailiyya in Egypt; the Tanjong Jara Beach Hotel, Malaysia, with its blend of traditional and contemporary architecture; the conservation work on the sixteenth century town-centre of Mostar in Yugoslavia; the Yaama Mosque, Niger, with its timeless, vernacular architecture; and the elegant, innovative roofing system of the Hajj terminal in Saudi Arabia.

Crown Prince, Japan leaders review relations

(Continued from page 1)

with them Jordanian-Japanese relations.

Meeting with Takeshita

Prince Hassan later met with Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and Foreign Minister Soseki Uno.

Petra said that Takeshita paid tribute to Jordan's role in the Arab and Islamic worlds through last November's Arab summit in Amman and also March 21-25 Islamic foreign ministers conference held in Amman.

Prince Hassan briefed the prime minister on the situation in the Middle East region, especially the Gulf war, the Afghan conflict and the Middle East question. He outlined Jordan's firm stand with regard to efforts for just and durable Middle East peace and the Kingdom's endeavours for achieving stability and prosperity for the Middle East region.

A Foreign Ministry official in Tokyo said that Takeshita and Prince Hassan discussed economic relations between Japan and Jordan according to Petra, Takeshita pledged that Japan would help Jordan implement its 1986-1990 five-year economic and social development plan within the framework of Jordan's policy of promoting regional development.

On Thursday, Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath will visit Tsukuba, a city about 60 kilometres northeast of Tokyo where scientific research is conducted, and will attend a luncheon given by business leaders.

Investment seminar

Prince Hassan Wednesday opened a Jordanian investment seminar in Tokyo organised in cooperation between the Jordanian government and trade and economic institutions in Japan.

Prince Hassan, in a keynote speech, said that Jordan and Japan had a number of features in common and that the limited natural resources in both countries necessitated the need to turn towards science and technology sectors.

The Crown Prince said Japan, which leads world economy, played a key role in achieving prosperity and stability worldwide.

Prince Hassan also referred to Jordan's initiative to achieve international harmony and praised Japan's policy aimed at achieving scientific and technological balance.

Jordan's scientific and technological development, the Crown Prince said, stem from the Kingdom's openness and the clarity of vision of His Majesty King Hussein. Jordan seeks to become a distinguished centre in the region for specialised technological services. In various fields and the recent establishment of the Higher Council of Science and Technology was a step towards achieving this goal, the Crown Prince said.

Prince Hassan expressed hope that the seminar would contribute to further promoting and bolstering relations between Jordan and Japan.

The seminar is the first of its

kind at the Arab level and will give the private sectors in both countries the opportunity to meet each other to discuss setting up joint projects in Jordan. Businessmen from both countries are taking part in the event.

Abu Jihad laid to rest in Damascus

(Continued from page 1)

They said Sharras promised that Syria would officially receive Arafat, expelled from the country in 1983, if he came to Damascus and that meetings with Syrian leaders, possibly including President Hafez Al Assad, would be arranged.

Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Daudin attended the funeral representing the Jordanian government alongside the Jordanian ambassador to Syria.

Most members of the PLO Executive Committee and the mainstream Fatah attended the funeral — the first such high-level PLO gathering in Syria since Arafat was forced out.

They included Nayef Hawatmeh, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, who was reportedly barred from Damascus after a reconciliation with Arafat a year ago.

Representatives from the Soviet Union, Eastern bloc and Arab countries also came for the funeral.

Palestinian officials said the PLO chairman, meanwhile, had been holding intensive talks with Qadhafi. Both leaders might visit Damascus to push Assad-Arafat reconciliation, they said.

They said Algeria and Libya were now exerting intensified efforts to achieve a Syrian-PLO reconciliation.

16-day Kuwaiti hijack drama ends

(Continued from page 1)

automobiles to an undisclosed location, according to the officials.

The gunmen left in two groups. Four or five people in suits were seen leaving the Boeing about 45 minutes before the first passengers emerged. Sources said the second group was whisked away 30 minutes after their companions.

A 31-year-old businessman, Tadar Al Khebi, said he knew they were about to be released Wednesday when he noticed the hijackers going through the plane shortly after 4 a.m. wiping clean every spot where they might have left their fingerprints.

Purser Mahmoud said it was the second hijack of his flying career with Kuwait Airways. He said he was in a Kuwaiti Boeing 727 hijacked in 1984 when two American passengers were killed. The hijackers, identified by a senior security source in Beirut as

PLO officials told the Jordan Times that a high powered Palestinian delegation will remain in Damascus this week to arrange for a meeting between Assad and Arafat.

The officials said that Qadhafi had tried to arrange such a meeting Wednesday but that both the Syrians and the Palestinians preferred that more bilateral talks should precede such a summit.

The officials said that the PLO was deeply impressed and touched by Syria's arrangements to organise the funeral of Abu Jihad. They believed that it was positive gesture on the part of Damascus for a fresh start in Syrian-Palestinian relations.

The Syrian media and officials referred to Abu Jihad "as the hero of the Palestinian cause."

Assad deputed a top-ranking Baathist official to attend the funeral while the Syrian military police did not intervene to disrupt the pro-PLO demonstrations Wednesday.

Leaders of three anti-Arafat factions, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — General Command, Saiga and the Popular Struggle Front attended the funeral. Leaders of Fatah rebels, except for Mahdi Bseiso, did not turn at the cemetery.

"Abu Jihad's blood has effectively reunited the Palestinians," a senior Palestinian official said.

pro-Iranian militants from Lebanon, released 71 hostages at Mashhad, northeast Iran, Larnaca, Cyprus, and Algiers.

Asked what would become of the gunmen, Algerian Interior Minister Ali Haddi Khediri told reporters shortly before the drama ended: "That concerns Algeria... it was a question of saving human lives and we cannot talk about bargaining."

In Kuwait, where jubilation greeted the release of the last hostages, diplomatic sources said Algeria had agreed to free the gunmen and let them slip quietly away after temporary detention.

The gunmen said in a statement announcing the end of the hijack that they still considered their cause just.

"We do not abandon our demands for the freeing of our brothers in Kuwait... in the name of God the Merciful, we pay homage to the ones who fought for us and are prisoners."

'Release of hostages imminent'

PARIS (R) — Arab businessman Omrane Adham said Wednesday after a trip to Beirut to contact Lebanese kidnappers that French hostages held in Lebanon could be freed within the next few days.

Adham, who is reported to be close to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, said he had been in Beirut Tuesday night for talks with the kidnappers of three Frenchmen.

"The prospect of a release in the next few days is positive," he told Reuters. "I cannot say more."

In Paris, officials refused to comment but informed French sources said they did not rule out a return for some or all of the hostages in the next two weeks.

Adham denied reports in the Beirut independent Al Nahar newspaper that he had been in contact with Amal militia leaders. "It was with the others," he said, saying he met with Islamic Jihad, which claims to hold diplomats Marcel Carton and Marcel Fontaine and journalist Jean-Paul Kauffmann.

Iranian missile lands in Kuwait

(Continued from page 1)

patrol boat, crippled two frigates and set two offshore oil platforms on fire Monday in the heaviest clash with the Iranians since the navy buildup last July to curb Iranian shipping attacks.

The combination of the unexpected Iraqi recapture of Fao, and the clashes with the U.S. navy has clearly jolted the Iranians.

Tehran Radio announcing a nationwide "mobilisation" Wednesday, made no reference to the Fao fighting.

But it declared: "Today our revolution and our heroic nation is face with the onslaught of the evil triangle of America, Iraq and the reactionaries."

It said all volunteers should report to their bases throughout the country "and get ready for departure" to the battlefield.

The broadcast made no mention of numbers. But Iranian leaders have claimed that between three and five million Iranians have undergone military training in the last six months.

Velayati, Iran's top war spokesman, vowed to retaliate against U.S. interests and "to sever the roots of U.S. existence in the region."

That appeared to be a reference to Kuwait, which appealed to foreign warships last year to protect its oil tankers in the Gulf from Iranian attack.

Last year Kuwait said Iran fired seven Chinese-made Silkworm missiles at its oil installations and tankers from the Fao peninsula, 80 kilometres to the northeast. One shut down its main Gulf oil export terminal and another hit a U.S.-flag Kuwaiti ship.

But military analysts said Iraq's recapture of Fao made it more difficult for Iran to launch Silkworms — which have a maximum range of around 100 kilometres — at Kuwait.

Iran has fired dozens of Scuds at Baghdad in a resurgence of the "war of the cities."

But Wednesday's incident was the first time a Scud had been fired at one of the Gulf Arab states.

Kuwait earlier criticised Iran for hitting a United Arab Emirates oil platform and tanker in the Gulf Monday.

"Such aggressive acts, including planting mines in international Gulf waters, are a blatant violation of international laws and conventions, threaten the freedom of navigation and increase dangers to stability and peace in the region," a foreign ministry official said.

In Washington, the White House said the U.S. navy had ended its search for a helicopter that disappeared with its two crewmen during Monday's clashes with Iranian forces in the Gulf.



Javier Perez de Cuellar

U.N. may expand peace forces

GENEVA (R) — U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has said the United Nations may expand its peace-keeping and monitoring role in regional conflicts.

In a speech Tuesday to the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, he praised the United Nations peace-keeping forces currently active in Cyprus, the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon.

Perez de Cuellar said: "In the future, it is possible we resort more often to this method of appeasing the parties to a conflict — justifiably considered as a success of the U.N. organisation."

"We are considering at the moment the technical and financial implications of a possible future launching of new operations," he added, without giving details.

Perez de Cuellar acknowledged that the Security Council was often paralysed by the use of veto from one of its five permanent members (Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States).

A notable exception occurred last July when the Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution demanding that Iran and Iraq call an immediate ceasefire in the Gulf war, he said.

Perez de Cuellar has decided to cut short his trip to Europe due to the tense situation in the Gulf, and was to return to New York Wednesday.

Answering questions after his speech, Perez de Cuellar said he was returning to New York to learn what decision the Security Council would take on the Gulf war.

He noted that an arms embargo was a possible next step if Iran and Iraq did not agree to the ceasefire demand.

"I am leaving soon to return to New York and learn the decision of the Security Council — whether to continue efforts through negotiation or to resort to applying sanctions such as an embargo to one or both parties," Perez de Cuellar said.

"It is not up to me to decide what steps will be taken."

In response to a question on Central America, he replied that the United Nations had limited powers because not all parties to the conflict wanted an active U.N. role.

Iranian bodies litter liberated Fao peninsula

By Subhy Haddad
Reuters

FAO, Southern Iraq — Dozens of Iranian corpses litter both sides of the 30-kilometre rough road leading down the narrow strip of land to Fao in south Iraq.

Bulldozers and other earthmoving machines were busy turning soil on the corpses as reporters toured the area only hours after Iraqi troops recaptured it Tuesday.

Not a living Iranian soldier was sighted in the whole peninsula. An Iraqi corporal opened machinegun fire on a portrait of Iranian revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini as other soldiers tore up placards, pamphlets and signs carrying his sayings.

More young Iraqi troops danced and chanted: "Death to Khomeini and long live (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein." Iranian prisoners-of-war, all Revolutionary Guards, and numbering more than 200, were being held in a big yard in front of the headquarters of the Iraqi army on the peninsula.

Bunkers and military hardware, installed during Iran's 26-month-long occupation of the southern terminal, and crushed in the assault, were also vanishing under soil as the bulldozers moved relentlessly forward.

Even some Iranian tanks, armoured vehicles and heavy machineguns, looking intact, were being dumped under the salty and muddy soil of the Fao peninsula.

Happy young Iraqi soldiers in hundreds of tanks, armoured per-

sonnel carriers and trucks gave "V" for-victory signs and fired in the air in triumph.

The reporters were driven in army jeeps from the southern port city of Basra, 90 kilometres north of Fao, through the dust-covered peninsula and the town of Fao, once a busy terminal for exports and for goods arriving in Iraq through the Gulf.

A large sign in coloured Arabic letters on one wall read: "The headquarters of the Supreme Islamic Council of Iraq," the group led by dissident Iraqi Shiite mullah Mohammad Baqir Al Hakim, who now lives in Tehran.

Heavy Iranian loss

Iraqi tractors and tanks towed Iranian tanks, armoured personnel carriers and jeeps, as abandoned rocket propelled grenades (RPGS), light and heavy machineguns, grenades and other weapons were piled up in different parts of the peninsula.

At least two Iranian 175-mm recoilless gun batteries were captured intact, their barrels pointing northwards towards the pre-offensive Iraqi lines.

No enemy gunfire was heard as

the dozens of jeep roared through the town, some as far as Ras Al Bisha, the last Iraqi township at the end of the narrow peninsula.

Ras Al Bisha sits on the point where the Shatt Al Arab waterway, which divides the two warring countries' lands in the south, flows into the Gulf.

Then, an Iranian F-4 Phantom jet opened rocket fire at the Iraqi side close to one of the reporters' jeeps, set some palm trees ablaze but caused no casualties, Iraq said later its anti-aircraft gunners shot the aircraft down.

Other jeeps came under heavy machinegun fire from the Iranian bank but no damage was reported.

"Not a single enemy soldier exists on the peninsula's territory now... our brave soldiers have completely liquidated the invaders and only a few were able to escape, swimming through the cold water of the Shatt Al Arab," a high-ranking military official said.

He said the Seventh Army Corps liberated the areas west of the Shatt Al Arab in 24 hours.

Two-axis attack

The Presidential Guards corps attacked on two axes.

One punched towards the Mamlaha — a 30 square-kilometre salted isolating the dry land near Fao from the Iraqi forces.

The second drove to the coastal road running parallel to Khawr 'Abd Allah channel up to Ras Al Bisha.

The officer said the Iraqi troops, after brief battles, were able to destroy all the bunkers and artificial water barriers and in 34 hours free the whole triangular peninsula.

The officer denied an Iranian claim that Iraqi forces used the nearby Kuwaiti Bubiyan island to attack Fao from the south.

"This is completely incorrect... we have not used any non-Iraqi territory, including Bubiyan Island, in our operation to liberate Fao," he said.

He added, in response to a question, that the Iranians had not used chemical weapons in the battle.

Iraq's air force destroyed bridges connecting Fao with the Iranian bank of the Shatt Al Arab early in the battle Sunday, the officer said, adding he did not expect an Iranian counterattack in the near future.

Iraqi casualties were very light, he said, but did not disclose details.

Iranian captives

The Iranian prisoners ranged from teenagers to old men.

Mohammad Zari'e, 49, from Gumbat-Kawuz in northern Iran, said he had nine children but was forced to join the Revolutionary Guards. He was moved into Fao one month ago.

"We heard heavy artillery and tank shelling and suddenly we were surrounded by the Iraqi soldiers and we surrendered ourselves," he said.

He said the Iraqi soldiers treated him and his colleagues well and were given food and cold water.

Andersson snubs Israel

STOCKHOLM (R) — Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson said he would boycott a celebration marking the 40th anniversary of the creation of Israel in protest against the assassination of Palestinian leader Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad).

Abu Jihad was killed in his Tunis home Saturday by a hit squad which Arab leaders and Israeli sources said was sent by Israel.

Andersson said in a statement Tuesday night: "I feel despair about the killing, and anger over the reaction in Israel, whose government has not protested at this malicious deed."

The Swedish foreign minister had been scheduled to deliver the keynote speech at an Israeli gathering in Stockholm's city hall Thursday.

Israel's ambassador in Stockholm, Moshe Erell, criticised Andersson's decision.

"Andersson's reaction is completely incomprehensible," he added.

Sweden has condemned the assassination, and Swedish media have described Abu Jihad as a Palestinian moderate and potential force for Middle East peace.

Andersson stressed he remained a friend of Israel but that it would have been necessary for him under present circumstances



Sten Andersson

to make a critical speech not suitable for a celebration gathering.

Sweden's ruling Social Democrats maintain generally cordial relations with Israel's Labour Party but are increasingly critical of Israel's policies in the occupied territories. They support a role for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in any Middle East peace settlement.

Andersson visited a Palestinian hospital on the Israeli-occupied West Bank and met PLO representatives during official visits to the region last month.

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NASDAQ to operate in London

LONDON (R) — Britain gave permission Tuesday for the first foreign stock market to operate in London's financial district alongside established British institutions.

Stock market analysts said the move, resisted by some members of the London Stock Exchange, was likely to be seen by financial markets as a milestone in the globalisation of securities trading.

The Department of Trade and Industry said in a statement it was granting the U.S.-based NASDAQ Company, an electronic share-dealing system, full legal rights to operate as an overseas investment exchange in London.

NASDAQ, which has the world's third-largest securities market turnover behind the New York and Tokyo exchanges, said the go-ahead meant British-based dealers could trade directly with their U.S. counterparts.

Until Tuesday British brokers had to use members of NASDAQ (the National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations) who were based in the United States to execute

orders.

The new link allows London market-makers to enter quotes for some 350 securities on NASDAQ.

London Stock Exchange chairman Sir Nicholas Goodison said he was not alarmed by the decision to allow NASDAQ to operate.

"It's no reason for the international (London) Stock Exchange to be alarmed or resentful. We are neither," he said in a statement.

Corporate Affairs Minister Francis Maude said he was very pleased by the approval.

"We attach great significance to the desire of overseas stock exchanges to operate in the U.K. because it emphasises the importance of the City of London... we now have operating here two of the world's four largest stock

markets," he said.

Joseph Hardiman, president of the U.S. National Association of Securities Dealers, said he intended to encourage more European companies to list their shares on NASDAQ.

"NASDAQ's electronic market has effectively been extended across the Atlantic Ocean," he told a news conference earlier. "That means a larger and more diversified investor base for NASDAQ's 4,700 U.S. and foreign companies."

Hardiman said it would be possible in future to link NASDAQ with London's SEAQ (Stock Exchange Automated Quotations) system, effectively allowing for international trade in all NASDAQ and London securities.

Lloyds doubles Gulf war risk premiums

LONDON (R) — Lloyds underwriters doubled war risk insurance premiums for the Gulf Tuesday after increased attacks on Gulf shipping and clashes between the U.S. and Iranian navies, a leading war risk underwriter said.

The new rates exclude war enemies Iran and Iraq which are still being quoted on a one-off basis.

One leading underwriter said hull rates for Kuwait were raised to two per cent from one per cent and for Saudi Arabian and United Arab Emirates (UAE) ports to 1.5 per cent from 0.75 per cent.

Other Lloyds underwriters made similar increases.

Underwriters and insurance brokers said they expect cargo insurance premiums for the Gulf to be raised later this week when the joint Lloyds and Institute of

London Underwriters (ILU) war risk ratings committee meets.

Kuwait is considered by underwriters as the highest risk after Iran and Iraq because of suspicions by underwriters that cargo for Kuwait is destined for transshipment by land to Iraq.

The Kuwaiti rate was doubled to 1.5 per cent in October last year following a U.S. attack on an Iranian oil platform but by the end of December had been trimmed back to one per cent.

U.S. officials said six Iranian vessels were either sunk or damaged in clashes Monday following American raids on two Iranian oil platforms which Washington said were in retaliation for Iranian mine-laying in the Gulf.

A British-flagged tanker, the York Marine, was attacked in the Gulf Monday and set ablaze apparently after being hit by an Iranian ship.

Syria, Iran renew oil cooperation accord

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian Oil Minister Mianios Habib said Tuesday that Iran had renewed an agreement under which Syria receives one million tonnes of crude oil a year free.

He was speaking to the official Syrian News Agency SANA on his return from five days of oil cooperation talks with Iranian leaders in Tehran.

Iranian officials said the pact, renewed for one year, also stipulated that Iran would supply Syria with oil at market prices.

Iran reached the agreement to provide Syria with one million tonnes of free oil in 1982 after Damascus closed an Iraqi oil export pipeline across Syria to the Mediterranean.

Syria, ideologically opposed to Baghdad, is Tehran's main Arab ally in its 7½-year-long war with Iraq.

The Iranian officials said prices were linked to market levels in the agreement because of the depressed state of the world oil market.

The Iranian news agency IRNA said last September that Syria owed \$1.2 billion to Iran in overdue discounted oil fees.

Major U.S. banks report higher profits

NEW YORK (AP) — Several of the nation's largest banking companies — Citicorp, Bankers Trust, New York Corp., Wells Fargo and Co., Bank of Boston Corp. and Mellon Bank Corp. — Tuesday reported an increase in their first quarter profits.

Analysts said the results, with the exception of Bankers Trust, were better than expected, and showed the banks were off to a positive start after suffering losses or reduced earnings in 1987 due to the Third World debt problem.

Citicorp, the nation's biggest bank holding company and the first last year to significantly increase reserves against possible losses on loans, said its after-tax profit for the three months ended March 31 rose to \$358 million. That was up 34 per cent from restated earnings of \$267 million in 1987.

Bankers Trust, ranked eighth, reported quarterly net income of \$126 million, up one per cent from \$124.2 million a year ago.

Wells Fargo, no. 11, said it netted \$120.4 million, up 54 per

cent from earnings of \$78.3 million.

Bank of Boston, no. 13, reported net income of \$84.3 million, a 19 per cent increase over \$70.8 million.

Mellon, no. 16, said it had a profit of \$25 million after suffering a \$60 million loss a year earlier.

Citicorp Chairman John S. Reed said at the annual stockholders' meeting Tuesday that the company's quarterly earnings "are very much on plan," following 1987's dismal results.

He said Citicorp's consumer, corporate and investment banking businesses were strong, while the European Investment Bank rebounded after doing poorly last year.

"As we look out to the remainder of '88 and indeed '89 and '90, we believe that your company will continue to make good progress," Reed told shareholders.

Citicorp lost \$1.13 billion in 1987 — its first loss in 53 years — after raising its loan-loss reserves to cover shaky foreign debt.

Jordan obtains loan

JEDDAH (R) — The Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has approved financing purchases of crude oil and petroleum products for Jordan and Turkey for about \$11 million. IDB has also approved \$94 million worth of financing for development projects and foreign trade in member countries, the bank said in a statement.

In addition to Jordan and Turkey, a \$9 million loan was approved for a road construction project in Senegal and \$8 million for a petroleum storage project in Niger.

Other countries included in the finance package are Sudan, Gambia, South Yemen, Iraq and India.

Jordan, Oman trade bodies sign protocol

AMMAN (I.T.) — A protocol was signed at the Amman Chamber of Commerce for upgrading trade and economic cooperation between the Amman and the Oman Chambers of Commerce.

The protocol was signed by Amman Chamber of Commerce President Mohammad Asfour and Omani Chamber of Commerce President Yaqoub Ibn Mohammad Al Harithi.

The protocol provides for developing cooperation in trade, by removing any obstacles impeding bilateral exchanges. Moreover, the protocol urges both sides to examine the prospect of setting

up a joint company and to encourage the conclusion of commercial and financial agreements between the two countries.

The two sides agreed to hold joint exhibitions to highlight products from the two countries and to take measures designed to promote tourism to either country.

According to parts of the protocol, published in Al Dustour Arabic newspaper, the two sides will settle any ensuing commercial dispute through arbitration, and will form a joint board to carry out the provisions of the protocol.

Ghor residents seek industrial investment

IRBID (J.T.) — Industrial projects included in the 1986-1990 five year development plan for the northern Jordan Valley region have not been started yet, despite the lapse of more than two years, according to North Jordan Valley District Governor Khalaf Mahasneh.

He said that one of the projects was the establishment of a plant for processing fruit juice and the other for packing and pickling vegetables.

Had these projects been carried out, they would have provided a great relief to local farmers who at present are faced with the problem of marketing their products, Mahasneh noted.

He said that some of the local farmers have not abided by the agricultural patterns systems and they are now suffering from a surplus of crops which has no

market.

In addition, Mahasneh said that youth centres included in the general plan were not set up.

But he added, sufficient water is now available for irrigation, thanks to the completion of work at Wadi Al Arab dam which can hold back 20 million cubic metres of water annually.

According to the district governor, work on a JD 655,000 vocational training school is due to begin before the end of 1988 and an agricultural vocational training centre at Wadi Al Yabis will be opened during this year.

Mahasneh said that the local population is demanding a central secondary school at North Shuneh to serve the town and neighbouring villages. He also noted that there was need for improving the telephone network in the district.

South Korea plans lower tariffs, taxes on foreign cars

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The government plans to lower tariffs on imported cars and reduce several domestic taxes on foreign vehicles to those on domestic automobiles, trade and industry ministry officials said Wednesday.

The officials said the measures, contained in plans presented Tuesday during a meeting with members of the South Korean auto industry, were designed to avoid trade friction with other countries and increase the competitiveness of local carmakers.

They did not say when the proposed measures would take effect.

The United States has accused South Korea of imposing discriminatory restrictions on U.S. cars while enjoying free access to the U.S. auto market.

South Korea responded earlier this month by lifting its ban on imports of foreign cars — but imposed high tariffs and bureaucratic red tape.

The ministry now plans to lower import duties from the present 30 per cent to 25 per cent next year, to 20 per cent in 1990 and to 15 per cent in 1992, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

They said the plans also call for reducing the local acquisition tax on the foreign cars from the present 30 per cent to two per cent, the same as for domestic automobiles. Car operation and licence taxes for foreign cars may also be cut under the plans.

Also, car owners now must buy 2.99 million won (\$4,030) in government bonds when registering a foreign automobile.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for April 20, 1988:

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	115051	JD 168956	174
Top three companies:			
Jordan Investment and Finance	34706	JD 55539	10
Arab Bank	270	JD 30780	3
Jordan Cement Factories	8210	JD 8538	9
Parallel market:	24356	JD 8929	—
Development bonds:	500	JD 5500	—
Treasury bills & bonds:	—	—	—
Other debentures:	—	—	—

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.8945/55	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.2295/05	Canadian dollar
	1.6621/26	Deutschmarks
	1.8640/50	Dutch guilders
	1.3742/52	Swiss francs
	5.6450/80	Belgian francs
	1235/1236	French francs
	123.93/03	Italian lire
	5.8440/90	Japanese yen
	6.1450/1500	Swedish crowns
	6.3860/3910	Norwegian kroner
	458.00/458.50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold		U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The market closed sharply lower in response to a larger than expected current account deficit for March. The All Ordinaries index was down 22 at 1430.4.

TOKYO — Share prices closed higher due to active bargain-hunting following three downward sessions, with bullishness prevailing despite a floundering Wall Street and dollar. The Nikkei Index climbed 207.09 to 26,864.09.

HONG KONG — Prices closed lower, depressed by profit-taking and the lack of new incentives. The Hang Seng Index fell 15.49 to 2,578.44.

SINGAPORE — Prices rebounded over a broad front on speculative buying support and bargain-hunting. The Straits Times Industrial Index rose 7.58 to 938.48.

BOMBAY — Fresh speculative buying, spurred by hopes of better corporate working results, pushed share prices sharply up. Tata Steel gained 11.25 rupees to 685.

FRANKFURT — Prices slipped back in dull trading and ended near the day's lows, with uncertainty about world interest rates and worries about the dollar keeping investors sidelined. The Commerzbank-Index, calculated at mid-session, fell 9.7 to 1,388.4.

ZURICH — Prices closed lower in moderate trading. Dealers said the fall on Wall Street overnight and disappointment with some company results affected several shares. The Swiss Index was down 7.9 at 819.9.

PARIS — Prices ended the continuous session slightly down but off their lows in quiet trading.

LONDON Prices eased to the day's lows in late trading after a modest mark-down on Wall Street. Volume was low. At 1451 GMT the FTSE 100 index was down 14 to 1,784.9.

NEW YORK — Stocks showed general losses at midday but had come off their lows. The Dow was down seven at 1,993.

Porsche to cut staff

FRANKFURT, West Germany (AP) — Porsche A.G. of West Germany, suffering plummeting sales overseas, plans to reduce its staff by about 1,000 people, or by 11.6 per cent, in the next 15 months, the company said Tuesday.

The West German maker of luxury sports cars said the staff cuts will be made through attrition, early retirement and other measures.

Porsche resorted to shorter work weeks after the company suffered the drop in sales and decided to drastically cut car output at its Zuffenhausen facility in southern West Germany, near Stuttgart.

Pennzoil acquires Facet

NEW YORK (OPECNA) — The Pennzoil Company has agreed to acquire Facet Enterprises, an auto filter maker and one of its long-standing suppliers, for \$250 million at \$32 a share in cash.

The Houston-based oil company's offer which was announced in a joint statement comes less than two weeks after it received \$3 billion in its settlement with Texaco.

Facet's stock, which is traded on the New York Stock Exchange, closed at \$31.37 share, up \$3.50.

The Facet deal with Pennzoil came as its shareholders were considering a "hostile" tender offer of \$27.50 per share by the Prospect Group, a New York investment concern, which holds about seven per cent in Facet.

The Facet management opposed the pending offer as well as an earlier bid of \$26 from Prospect and asked its financial advisers to create a recapitalization plan or find another buyer.

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Also, completion of works of the previously executed sewers in the original contract No. (100/85).
- 2- Complete set of bidding documents may be purchased at the office of Tender Department of the Water Authority, Shmeisani, P.O. Box (2412) Amman - Jordan. Telephone 680100. Telex 22439 WAIJO
- 3- Price per set is JD (50). No refunds will be made.
- 4- Tenders shall be submitted before 1:30 afternoon of May 24, 1988 at the Government Tenders Directorate, MPWH, Amman..

Chairman, Central Tenders Committee
Director, Government Tenders Directorate

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TAXI LOVE

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PLAZA

Hard ticket to Hawaii

Performances: 3:30, 5:15, 8:45, 10:45

Dukakis wins New York, becomes frontrunner

NEW YORK (R) — Michael Dukakis Wednesday became the Democratic Party's likely candidate for the November presidential election after defeating Jesse Jackson in the key New York primary.

Jackson, a powerful voice of U.S. minority groups who wanted to be the first black president, failed to attract enough white votes to underwrite his drive for the Democratic nomination.

But he refused to give up, telling hundreds of cheering supporters: "We've come a long way. We must keep on coming."

In a bitter contest that had racial overtones, Dukakis, a 54-year-old technocrat unknown nationally a year ago, secured 152 of the 255 delegates New York State will send to the party's nominating convention in July, giving him more than half of the 2,082 convention delegates needed to secure the nomination.

In the balloting by Democratic voters in New York, Dukakis got 51 per cent, Jackson 37 per cent and Tennessee Senator Albert Gore 10 per cent.

NBC Television said Dukakis now had 1,046 delegates to 849 for Jackson and 441 for Gore.

House panel backs bill to tighten arms sales law

WASHINGTON (R) — In action stemming from the Iran-contra scandal, the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee recommended approval Tuesday of legislation tightening laws on the sale of weapons to "terrorist" states.

The bill would reinforce a ban on arms sales to states designated as supporting "international terrorism" by requiring the president to make detailed reports to Congress of waivers of the ban and imposing criminal penalties on officials and others who violate the ban.

The measure also requires, with certain exceptions, quarterly reports to Congress on transfer of arms between U.S. government agencies that are destined to go abroad.

The president would also have to report on the transfer of more than one million dollars worth of U.S. weapons by a recipient country to a third country.

who is widely expected to announce his withdrawal from the contest at a news conference Thursday.

'Whip' any candidate

Vice-President George Bush, who is assured of the Republican Party nomination, was believed to have won all 136 Republican delegates in his party's primary in the state.

Bush said after the contest he would "whip" any candidate the Democrats put up in the November contest to succeed President Reagan.

Dukakis took 70 per cent of the state's Democratic white support, including the "blue collar" vote, while Jackson attracted 95 per cent of the black vote. Jackson managed to win support from only 15 per cent of whites — most of them highly educated.

A CBS poll of white voters in New York found that only 39 per cent said race was not a factor in their voting choices.

Gore said Dukakis beat him by "a mile." If he bows out on Thursday, delegates he won in southern state contests will go to Jackson in states where the black leader came second.

Despite Jackson's pledge to stay in the fight, party leaders seemed set to rally around Dukakis, a cool sometimes arrogant technocrat once described by ex-president Richard Nixon as a "word processor."

Dukakis is tough, serious and

self-confident but is also seen by many voters as colourless and uninspiring.

Nevertheless, he has consistently out-organised his opponents and now emerges as the frontrunner in a field that started with seven candidates.

"With the race down to two people and no one to siphon off the non-Jackson votes, there is no way Jackson can beat Dukakis in any of the remaining primaries," Democratic strategist Terry Michael told Reuters.

Michael, communications director for Illinois Senator Paul Simon's defunct presidential campaign, said Dukakis should now begin to pull in support from the 646 power-brokers known as "super-delegates" — party leaders, state officials and members of Congress entitled to convention seats.

Vice president?

One question being asked Wednesday was whether Jackson would demand the vice-presidential slot as the price for cooperating with a Dukakis candidacy.

Nixon, in an interview with CBS, said he expected the presidential election to be between Dukakis and Bush and if Dukakis chose Jackson as his running mate Bush would win easily.

In television interviews, Jackson said what he wanted was for the Democrats to reclaim the White House after eight years of Reagan and policies the black civil rights leader said had crushed the poor.

Jackson was also at pains to praise Dukakis for personally avoiding the racial tensions that marred the New York campaign

Reagan urges death sentence for drug crimes

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan urged Congress Tuesday to swiftly pass a law allowing the death penalty for drug-related deaths and murders.

Reagan said he had sent the bill to Congress six months ago and neither the House of Representatives nor the Senate Judiciary committees had yet taken action on the measure.

"I call upon the House and Senate to vote promptly on my bill providing for capital punishment when a death results from drug dealing, and then a DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration) agent or other law enforcement officer is murdered."

Reagan said in a speech.

The president, speaking at a ceremony honouring law enforcement officials who lost their lives in the war on drugs, said, "It's time for us to send our own message to people who kill cops."

Congressional aides said the bill was very broad in scope and seeks to apply the death sentence to any drug-related deaths — for example, if two dealers were arguing and one shot the other.

Under current law, individual states decide which crimes if any should carry the death penalty. Reagan's bill would require states to allow the death penalty for drug-related crimes.

'AIDS may jeopardise political stability'

WASHINGTON (R) — Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) could eventually jeopardise political stability in countries with a high incidence of the deadly virus, U.S. army researchers said Tuesday.

"I'm not going to predict how the balance of power could be affected but it could be impressive," said Colonel William Bancroft, director of Disease Research at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, in testimony before an AIDS commission formed by President Reagan.

Colonel Donald Burke, head of the institute's Department of Virus Diseases, said countries where 15 to 20 per cent of adult males are affected by AIDS could eventually lose a head of state to the virus.

"A very reasonable scenario is that the ruler of a country is going to go," Burke said.

Burke declined to name any specific countries that might be vulnerable to social upheaval caused by the impact of AIDS, a disease that kills by destroying the body's immune system.

"All we need to have is a wide number of cases in stable countries and we will not have stable countries in the future," Burke said.

He said he considered the menace important enough to be addressed by both the State and Defence departments.

Bancroft and Burke testified on the second day of a hearing by a presidential commission appointed in 1987 to recommend to the Reagan administration measures to treat and combat AIDS.

The U.S. Armed Forces are considered a major source of data on AIDS because they have tested all active-duty personnel for the disease and screen all potential recruits for it.

In a related development, Soviet scientists have built a molecular model of the AIDS virus and discovered new features which should help in diagnosing and treating the deadly disease, TASS news agency said Wednesday.

The model was created over a three-year period by two professors at the Gamalei Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology in Moscow, TASS said. It quoted Valentin Pokrovsky, a leading Soviet AIDS expert, as the source for its report.

Afghanistan seeks foreign capital for reconstruction

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghanistan's Soviet-backed government has said it needs foreign help to reconstruct the war-ravaged country and will welcome capital investment even from the United States, which backs Afghan rebels.

Prime Minister Sultan Ali Kishmard said Tuesday that Afghanistan had suffered in the nine-year-old war but looked towards a bright economic future following last week's U.N.-mediated settlement providing for a Soviet military withdrawal.

His speech in the Afghan capital was broadcast by the official Kabul Radio, monitored in Islamabad.

"We have chalked out some plans for the economic development of the country until the year 2000," Kishmard told an audience reported to include Soviet and U.S. experts from social and scientific fields.

"We need the cooperation of other countries for the reconstruction of our country."

Kishmard told the meeting he hoped the settlement signed in Geneva Thursday would end the war in Afghanistan, which he said would welcome capital investment from anywhere.

"Every proposal for investment, including (any) from the United States, would be negotiated," he said.

Iran-based guerrillas vow to fight

In a related development, Iran-based Afghan guerrillas joined fighters in Pakistan in denouncing Tuesday the U.N. settlement on Afghanistan.

Representatives of a Tehran-based coalition of eight Mujahideen groups, the Alliance of Islamic Revolution, told a news conference in Geneva they would

continue to fight until the Soviet-backed Kabul government fell.

"Our people will continue their struggle and fighting unless they gain their real independence and self-determination for their country," said Muhammad Karim Khalili, who said he was on the coalition's eight-member council.

Most attention has focused on the seven-party Pakistan-based Afghan Guerrilla Alliance, which has received sophisticated U.S. military aid. It had already rejected the accord on similar grounds.

Speakes apologises for making up quotes

WASHINGTON (R) — Former White House spokesman Larry Speakes publicly apologised Tuesday for making up quotes for President Reagan, saying he had wronged the U.S. president and damaged his own credibility.

"To attribute to the president words not uttered by the president is wrong, period," Speakes said at a luncheon promoting his new book.

"I have wronged President Reagan, a man whom I deeply admire and respect and I have provided fodder for those who would aim the cannons of criticism at the president I served loyally for six years."

He did not apologise for telling the truth in his book "Speaking Out" but said "I do regret that I have overstepped the bounds of propriety in some instances and it is for this that I apologise."

Blast at U.S. centre injures 5 in Costa Rica

SAN JOSE (R) — Five people were injured Tuesday in a blast in front of a U.S. government-run cultural centre which Costa Rica described as a bombing but U.S. officials said was an explosion in an electrical transformer.

Costa Rican President Oscar Arias condemned the incident as a act of "terrorism," telling reporters: "Violence breeds more violence, and the problems of the country will not be resolved through terrorism."

But U.S. embassy officials said the explosion in the transformer was caused by a failure in the electrical system.

Deputy Security Minister Rogelio Castro Pinto said the

explosion took place in front of the U.S.-Costa Rican Cultural Centre in eastern San Jose.

Two U.S. citizens were injured in the blast and were in hospital in serious condition but out of danger, security officials told Reuters. Also in hospital with a leg wound was a Costa Rican teacher. Arias said he would visit them later.

Two Costa Rican students at the centre were also hurt.

Early radio reports said a man was seen stepping out of a taxi and placing the bomb under a parked car, but security officials later said the bomb was thrown from a moving vehicle.

Archivist: Robert Kennedy murder photos missing

SACRAMENTO, California (R) — A file on the assassination of Robert Kennedy, unsealed Tuesday, showed police dismissed without explanation suggestions of a second gunman and apparently lost 2,400 photographs, according to a state archivist.

California archivist John Burns said the Los Angeles Police Department also dismissed without explanation reports there may have been more than eight bullet holes even though the assassin's gun could only fire eight bullets when Kennedy was shot in the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles on June 5, 1968.

Burns spoke when a police file on the assassination — containing 50,000 pages of reports, 2,900 photographs, accounts of 4,400 interviews and the final police report — was unsealed Tuesday, nearly 20 years after Kennedy was killed.

Burns said he had expected to find 5,300 photographs.

Case experts who support a

"second gun" theory have said a photograph taken by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) showed two additional bullet holes in a door frame at the assassination scene — for a total of 10.

Senator Kennedy, 42-year-old brother of the late president John Kennedy, had just won the Democratic Party's vital California primary election in his campaign to become president when he was shot in Los Angeles on June 5, 1968. He died the next day.

Sirhan Sirhan, a Jordanian, was sentenced to death for the killing, but his sentence was reduced to life imprisonment in 1972 when California outlawed the death penalty. Sirhan, 45, has been repeatedly denied parole from the state prison at Soledad.

Burns told a news conference the missing photographs included shots of ballistic tests and of witness reenactments.

But he said the contents of most of the photographs remained a mystery.

The documents also alluded to evidence given a police sergeant which was never returned to the file, Burns said.

At the news conference was a polka dot dress, said to have been used in reenactments of a scene in which a woman wearing a black and white polka dot dress was said by another woman to have been seen running outside the hotel shouting "We shot him. We shot him."

Burns said the Los Angeles Police had opposed the unsealing of the documents until last August, when they were handed over to the state.

In March 1986, the Los Angeles Police commission released a 1,500-page summary of the police investigation, concluding Sirhan acted alone.

Sirhan Sirhan fired the fatal shots that killed Senator Robert Kennedy, the report said. "There was no evidence of a conspiracy in the crime."

Michael Jackson autobiography hits the stands

NEW YORK (R) — In an autobiography released this week, Michael Jackson has denied having had extensive plastic surgery on his face.

"I have had my nose altered twice and I recently added a cleft to my chin — but that's it," Jackson says in "Moonwalk", a glossy new autobiography edited by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and released Monday following a four-year gestation period.

In the book, the singer claims his cosmetic alterations have been exaggerated by an unfriendly press.

"I would like to set the record straight right now," he adds. "I have never had my cheeks altered or my eyes altered. I have not had my lips thinned, nor have I had dermabrasion or a skin peel."

Jackson attributes most of his altered image to a switch from "greasy processed foods" to a strict vegetarian diet.

"Journalists... say I've had my eyes widened, that I want to look more white. More white? What kind of statement is that? ... A lot of very fine, very nice people have had plastic surgery."

Jackson's book was acquired for Doubleday in 1984.

"Moonwalk" is a straightforward, first-person account of Jackson's years as a child performer with his brothers on the black music circuit and his subsequent stardom as a solo performer.

The book is dedicated to Fred Astaire and includes an introduction by Onassis, who describes Jackson's book as "a startling glimpse of the artist at work and the artist in reflection."

"Moonwalk" describes Jackson being taught grammar and table manners by his record company. In it, Jackson admits to



Michael Jackson: Setting the record straight in his autobiography, "Moonwalk", released this week. (File photo)

being a "prankster", recalling the time he threw \$100 bills from his Washington, D.C., hotel balcony to a grateful citizenry.

No 'happy ending'

Jackson says his romantic involvements have not provided "the happy ending" he has been looking for, but does not detail his dating actresses Tatum O'Neal and Brooke Shields. He refers to O'Neal (now mar-

ried to tennis star John McEnroe) as "my first love — after Diana (Ross)."

Ross, who discovered the Jackson Five, is described by Jackson as "my mother, my lover, and my sister," while Marlon Brando is described as a "father figure."

On the first page of the book, the reclusive superstar has drawn a self-portrait dated 1998. "I believe I'm one of the loneliest people in the world," Jackson writes.

COLUMN

Rock rakes in \$9 million

NEW YORK (R) — A mystery buyer paid a world record \$9.1 million for a pear-shaped, South African diamond — the largest diamond ever sold at auction in heated bidding at Sotheby's auction house Tuesday. The 85.91 carat diamond, about the size of a robin's egg, topped the \$6.6 million paid in 1980 for a pair of earrings with diamonds totaling 131.86 carats. "To place the present stone in proper historical perspective it may be said that it falls slightly below the Cullinan III (world's largest) now in the British crown jewels, and slightly above the Spoonmaker diamond, now in the Topkapı Museum in Istanbul," gemologists and jewellery historian Neil Letson said in a statement, distributed by Sotheby's.

Incest kills

MOSCOW (AP) — A Soviet newspaper Tuesday blamed high infant mortality in the Central Asian republic of Turkmenia on widespread incest among rural residents who intermarry to avoid paying exorbitant traditional dowries. The youth newspaper, Komsomolskaya Pravda, quoted a doctor in the village of Yaglytyk as saying that at one nearby collective farm there are 90 families in which the parents are close relatives, and 71 of them had borne children who died within a year. The newspaper did not specify how much of the republic's high incidence of infant mortality was attributable to incest, but said it was a "high percentage." A Soviet sociology journal last year reported that the infant mortality rate in Turkmenia is more than twice the Soviet national average, which itself ranks 50th in the world, behind most developed countries. The journal, Sociological Research, said 58.2 of every 1,000 children born in the Central Asian republic die within a year. The national infant mortality rate in the Soviet Union in 1986 was 25.4 per 1,000. Infant mortality in the United States that year was 10.4 per 1,000 births. "They knock us doctors for the high infant mortality rate," Khodzhamurad Makhomov, a pediatric specialist in Turkmenia's Takhitsky region told the newspaper. "Yet we are powerless in the case of the death of a child of related parents."

Son kills cannibal who killed mother

LUSAKA (AP) — A young man used a spear to kill a man who murdered his mother and ate her intestines, a newspaper reported Wednesday. The Times of Zambia said a judge in Kasama High Court in isolated northern Zambia sentenced Rodgers Kaluba, 21, to ten strokes of the cane after he pleaded guilty to avenging his mother's death. State Prosecutor Kawami Lwali told the court a group of villagers mounted a search for Kaluba's mother, Estaki Machanda, when she disappeared from Chinsali village near Kasama in March last year. A trail of footprints led them to a hut where a man was cooking intestines on an open fire, he said. The man, named as Laban Mwingi, confessed to killing Machanda and showed them her remains in a shallow grave nearby. Lwali said, Kaluba stabbed Mwingi three times in the chest with his spear. "I killed him because I found him eating the internal parts of my mother," Kaluba told the court, the newspaper reported.

Latins are the best lovers

LONDON (R) — The legendary Latin lover really is the best, according to feminist author Germaine Greer. "I think the Italians are the best lovers in the world. They are utterly absorbed," she said in an interview published Monday in Woman's Journal magazine. Greer attacked the image of the gallant English gentleman, saying British men found it very difficult to treat women as people. "They don't have the machinery of gallantry to incorporate women: even as tokens." The author of the influential feminist text, "The Female Eunuch," was equally damning of her fellow Australians. "They are ill at ease with women," and comfortable with each other, she said. Other nationalities did no better. She said the French were too vain to be much good and the Arabs hated to touch or be touched. Americans were frightened of women, she said. "They're terrific lovers because they try so hard. However, after a while that becomes depressing."

Philippines lifts red alert

MANILA (R) — The Philippines largely lifted a nation-wide military alert Wednesday after what Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos called a period of "greater stability." Ramos said there had been a decline in insurgency violence around the country and hinted that the danger of a coup attempt by right-wing groups had ebbed. "We are now in a period of greater stability," Ramos told a news conference, citing statistics showing incidents of rebel-related violence this year had dropped to below last year's average of 10 a day. "The red alert has been lifted except for so-called Contingency Forces," he said, referring to special army units around Manila formed to track down escaped fugitive Colonel Gregorio Honasan.

Suspect sought in Jewish centre bombing

WIESBADEN, West Germany (AP) — Police Tuesday issued a composite drawing of a man they suspect was involved in Monday's bomb attack on the Frankfurt Jewish Community Centre. Hesse state police described a man of about 20, with a short, military-style haircut, whom a witness saw running away from the Jewish Community Centre area about five minutes before the blast. The powerful explosion early Monday seriously damaged Frankfurt's Jewish Community Centre. A second — and apparently related — bomb blast shortly afterward gutted the Saudi Arabian Airlines office and damaged nearby buildings. There were no injuries and no claims of responsibility for the bombings.

Rabuka: Indians should be converted

SYDNEY (R) — Fijian army commander and coup leader Brigadier General Sitiveni Rabuka says God chose Fiji for the Fijians and that the nation's large ethnic Indian population should be converted to Christianity. In a biography, "Rabuka — No Other Way," the devout Methodist vows to ensure political supremacy for indigenous Fijians, and to turn the South Pacific island group into a strong Christian nation. "The Bible makes quite clear that God chose Fiji for the Fijians. It is the land that God has given them," the book quotes Rabuka as saying. He said his coup last May to overthrow Fiji's first Indian-dominated elected government was "a mission that God has given me."

Amnesty: Human-rights emergency in Colombia

LONDON (AP) — Amnesty International said Colombian Armed Forces have plunged the country into a "human-rights emergency" by practising political repression against anyone who fails to support them. "A policy of terror and political murder by the Colombian Armed Forces, which has already resulted in thousands of killings and 'disappearances' in recent years, now threatens the civic, cultural and academic lifeblood of the country," said the report for release Wednesday. The London-based human-rights group said murder is considered to be the main cause of death among Colombian men aged 15 to 44 and that many victims "are tortured and then hideously disfigured both to prevent identification and to instill terror." Amnesty International said the Colombian government is responsible for the protection of its citizens' human rights and that the security forces must be brought under control.

Tamil leader: Indian Army aggravating tension

COLOMBO (AP) — A Tamil rebel leader said the presence of Indian troops in Sri Lanka appears to be sharpening the animosity between the island's Sinhalese Buddhist majority and Tamil Hindu minority. Uma Maheswaran, leader of the Peoples' Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam, told the Associated Press in an interview Monday night that he did not believe the Indian troops would ever be able to end the Tamil separatist rebellion. "For as long as there are Indian troops in this country, as a foreign force, the misunderstanding between the Sinhalese and Tamils will be made wider," Maheswaran said.

Mugabe announces amnesty for rebels

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — President Robert Mugabe Tuesday announced a general amnesty for armed rebels, political opponents and some criminals. Mugabe told a ceremony to mark his country's defence forces day he was able to make the offer because of the unity accord he signed Dec. 22 with former opposition leader Joshua Nkomo. That agreement aims to merge Mugabe's ruling Zimbabwe African National Union (Patriotic Front) with Nkomo's Zimbabwe African People's Union (Patriotic Front). Mugabe told thousands of Zimbabweans crowded into the national sports stadium the amnesty would apply to armed dissidents who claim loyalty to Nkomo, political exiles and people imprisoned for collaborating with rebels. "This will enhance the unity accord," he said.

Crackdown on election violence

SEOUL (AP) — Prime Minister Lee Hyun-Jae Wednesday ordered a crackdown on violence during campaigning for legislative elections as 23 people were injured in new clashes. Lee issued the order after an emergency meeting with top law enforcement and government officials, including the ministers of justice and home affairs and the national police director. "All illegal campaigning and acts of violence involving ruling as well as opposition members must be strictly dealt with according to laws," Lee told the meeting. He ordered the arrest of anyone using violence or being disruptive at rallies and other campaigning activities. At least 23 people were injured Wednesday during clashes between supporters of rival political parties in three provinces, news report said.

Delvalle urges multinational force to remove Noriega

NEW YORK (R) — Ousted Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle said in an interview broadcast Tuesday that a multinational force should remove from power the country's de facto leader General Manuel Antonio Noriega. In a video-taped interview handed over to a U.S. television network, Delvalle, who is in hiding in Panama, admitted it would be hard to bring about such joint action against Noriega, who is head of the Panama Defence Forces. But he called for "a multinational force, which should come in and take Noriega out." He said Noriega may be seeking a military confrontation with the United States. "I think Noriega's going mad. Maybe he even believes that would be an honourable way out — that he stood up valiantly against the empire," said Delvalle.